

## Heavyweight

STEVEN R. HURST

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

Egypt's new President Mohammed Morsi assigned himself the heavyweight's role in the Middle East on Wednesday, declaring in his first speech to the United Nations that the civil war

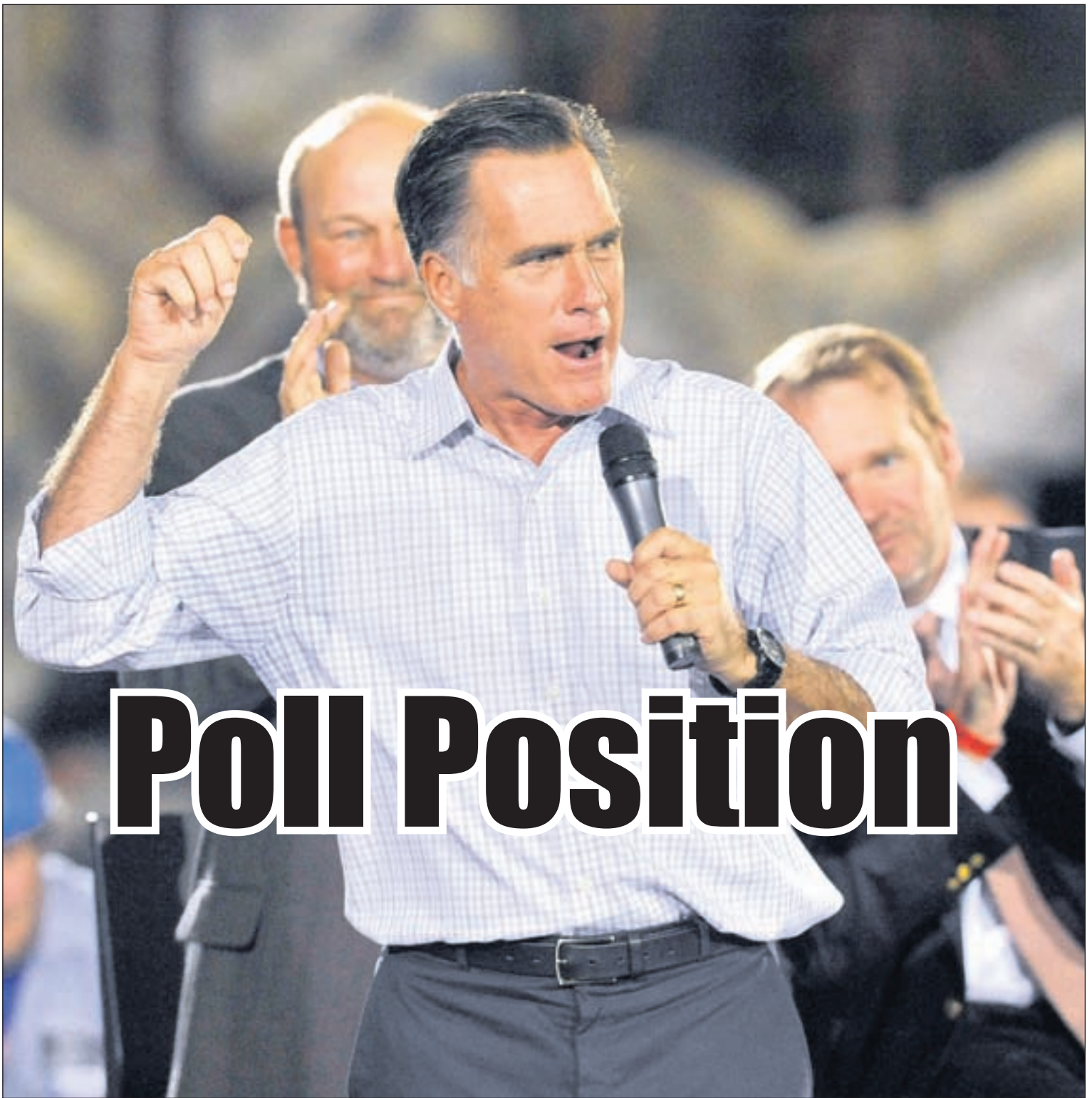


Mohammed Morsi, President of Egypt, addresses the 67th session of the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters, Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2012.

(AP Photo/Jason DeCrow)

raging in Syria is the "tragedy of the age" and must be brought to an end. In a wide-ranging address that touched on all major issues confronting the region, Morsi also decried Israeli settlement-building on territory Palestinians claim for a future state and condemned a film produced in the United States that denigrates Islam's Prophet Muhammad. He urged all U.N. member nations to join in an effort to end what he called "the catastrophe in Syria" that pits the regime of Bashar Assad against opposition forces trying to end 40 years of dictatorship. More than 30,000 people have been killed in the 18-month conflict.

Continued on Page 2



Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney speaks during a campaign stop at American Spring Wire, Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2012, in Bedford Heights, Ohio.

(AP Photo/ David Richard)

## Losing ground, Romney assures voters 'I care'

BEN FELLER

STEVE PEOPLES

Associated Press

WESTERVILLE, Ohio (AP)

— Slipping in states that could sink his presidential bid, Republican Mitt Romney declared Wednesday that "I care about the people of America" and can do more than President Barack Obama to improve their lives. In an

all-day Ohio duel, Obama scoffed that a challenger who calls half the nation "victims" was unlikely to be of much help. Romney's approach reflected what he is up against: a widening Obama lead in polls in key states such as Ohio, the backlash from a leaked video in which he disparages Obama supporters as government-de-

pendent people who see themselves as victims, and a campaign imperative to make his policy plans more plain. With under six weeks to go, and just one week before the first big debate, Obama's campaign revealed in the latest public polling — but tried to crush any sense of overconfidence. "If we need to pass out horse blinders to all of

our staff, we will do that," said campaign spokeswoman Jen Psaki. The day's setting was Ohio, where Obama's momentum has seemed to be growing. It's also a state no Republican has won the White House without carrying.

Continued on Page 4



# Egypt's Morsi assumes major role in Mideast

Continued from front

Morsi has called for Assad to step down and said Wednesday that "the bloodshed in Syria and the humanitarian crisis that has unfolded must be stopped."

Morsi, an Islamist and key member of the once-banned Muslim Brotherhood, opened his remarks to the U.N. General Assembly by celebrating himself as Egypt's first democratically elected leader who was swept into office after what he called a "great, peaceful revolution" that overthrew Hosni Mubarak. He then quickly inserted himself into the thorniest issues in the Middle East, demanding that the United Nations grant membership to the Palestinians, with or without a peace agreement with Israel.

"The fruits of dignity and freedom must not remain

far from the Palestinian people," he said, adding that it was "shameful" that U.N. resolutions are not enforced.

The Palestinians are ex-

pected to again ask for U.N. recognition and formally make application to the world body in November, after the U.S. presidential election. President Barack Obama said when the Palestinians sought recognition last year that Washington would block the move until there was a peace deal with Israel. The

independent country.

In his bid to end the violence in Syria, Morsi has invited Turkey, Iran and Saudi Arabia to join a contact group, though the Saudis have not yet participated and the fighting in Syria continues unabated. While Morsi wants Assad to step aside, he said Wednesday that he opposes any foreign military intervention.

The U.N. Security Council, which could call for intervention or global sanctions against Syria, is deadlocked because Russia, Assad's main protector, and China have blocked a series of resolutions brought by Western governments.

Morsi also denounced as an obscenity the anti-Islam video that portrays the Prophet Muhammad as a womanizer, a child molester and a fraud, insisting that freedom of expression does not allow for attacks on any religion.

He also condemned the violence that swept Muslim countries last week in reaction to the video. At least 51 people were killed, including the U.S. ambassador to Libya and three other Americans targeted in an attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi.

"Egypt respects freedom of expression. One that is not used to incite hatred against anyone. One that is not directed toward one specific religion or culture. A freedom of expression that tackles extremism and violence. Not the freedom of expression that deepens ignorance and disregards others," Morsi said.

He appeared to have been responding to Obama's General Assembly speech Tuesday in which the U.S. leader again condemned the video but sternly defended the U.S. Constitution's free speech guarantees. □



**Mohammed Morsi, President of Egypt, addresses the 67th session of the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters, Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2012.**

(AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

focus of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, which have been on hold for four years, is a two-state solution that would formally grant the Palestinians the rights of an

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# Japan PM says no compromise with China on islands

MATTHEW PENNINGTON  
Associated Press  
NEW YORK (AP) — Japan's prime minister said Wednesday his nation is not willing to compromise in its territorial dispute with China over remote islands that have spawned violent anti-Japan protests.

But Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda said that Japan would respond calmly and make sure it does not adversely affect bilateral relations between the two Asian powers.

Noda was speaking at a news conference after telling the U.N. General Assembly that issues should be resolved peacefully, according to rule of law, and not through force.

Senior diplomats of China and Japan met both



Prime Minister of Japan Yoshihiko Noda addresses a news conference in New York Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2012.

in New York and Beijing Tuesday, seeking to mend ties frayed by the spat over the Senkakus islands, called Diaoyu by China, that has raised tensions between them to their highest level in years. The islands, held by Ja-

pan, are uninhabited but sit astride rich fishing waters and potentially large reserves of natural gas.

"So far as the Senkaku islands are concerned, they are the inherent part of our territory, in light of history

and international law. It's very clear," Noda said. "There are no territorial issues as such, therefore there could not be any compromise that may mean any set back from this basic position."

He added that both in

the case of the Senkakus, and separate islands that are subject of a spat between Japan and fellow U.S. ally South Korea, Japan would "maintain reason and try to resolve the issue calmly."

Noda defended his government's purchase of some of the islands from a private Japanese citizen two weeks ago as an attempt to ensure their "stable management" but conceded "it seems that China has yet to understand that." He said violence in the protests — that have targeted Japanese-owned stores and factories in China — could not be condoned in any circumstances and that Japan had demanded China protect Japanese citizens and property. □

(AP Photo/Craig Ruffile)

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## Losing ground, Romney assures voters 'I care'

Continued from front

Romney, eager to project confidence and brush aside suggestions that he was faltering, went after working-class voters out-

to mince no words about his expectations. "There are so many people in our country who are hurting right now. I want to help them. I know what it takes," Romney told the crowd in Westerville. "I care about

no federal income tax, will vote for Obama no matter what, see themselves as victims, think the government must care for them and do not "take personal responsibility and care for their lives."

New opinion polls, conducted after the video became public, show Obama opening up apparent leads over Romney in battleground states, including Ohio and Virginia. And majorities of voters in Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania say Romney's policies would favor the rich over the middle class or the poor.

Specifically in Ohio, two surveys show the president crossing the 50 percent mark among likely voters. A Washington Post poll found Obama ahead 52 percent to 44 percent among those most likely to turn out, and a Quinnipiac University/CBS News/New York Times poll showed a 10-point Obama lead among definite voters.

Noting anew the Romney video comments, Obama said Wednesday: "We understand that America is not about what can be done for us. It's about what can be done by us together, as one nation, as one people."

And he added: "You can't make it happen if you write off half the nation before you take office."

Romney was showing signs of picking up his pace, and he did not mince words about his expectations. □



Supporters of Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney cheer during a campaign rally on Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2012 in Toledo, Ohio.

(AP Photo/ Evan Vucci)

side Columbus and Cleveland before rolling to Toledo. Obama rallied college crowds at Bowling Green State University and Kent State University, reminding Ohioans their state allows them to start cast ballots next week. Early voting has already begun in more than two dozen other states.

For Romney, in his appearances and in a new TV ad in which he appeals straight to the camera, it was time for plain talk to contrast himself with Obama, and

the people of America, and the difference between me and Barack Obama is I know what to do."

That message so late in the campaign — a presidential nominee declaring his concern for all the people of the country — was part of his widening effort to rebound from his caught-on-video comments at a fundraiser.

In those comments, made last May but only recently revealed, Romney said "47 percent of the people" pay



A protester, center, wears a mask depicting Iran President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in a protest outside the United Nations against the Iranian President, Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2012 in New York.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

## Iranian diplomat looks for safety from UN protesters

VERENA DOBNIK  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — An Iranian diplomat was escorted from a Manhattan street by New York police Wednesday after he was surrounded and threatened by an angry mob of protesters near the United Nations. Deputy Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehm-anparast was walking near the United Nations when he was noticed and confronted by the angry mob on Second Avenue near East 48th Street, said NYPD spokesman Paul Browne. He flagged down police officers, who helped him get to a safe spot. Browne said the threats were believed to have been verbal. The incident followed a speech by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to the U.N. General Assembly.

Outside the building, thousands of anti-Ahmadinejad demonstrators rallied in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza opposite the world body. Ahmadinejad, known for past fiery denunciations of the United States and Israel, said before the General Assembly that there is a "continued threat by the uncivilized Zionists to resort to military action against our great nation."

Outside, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who ran for president earlier this year, challenged President Barack Obama to take stronger action against Iran as it threatens to become a nuclear power. However, he did praise the Obama administration for recently taking the Iranian dissident group Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, or MEK, off the U.S. terrorist watch list. □





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## Police checking out Hoffa tip in Detroit suburb

COREY WILLIAMS  
Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Investigators will take soil samples from the ground beneath a suburban

Detroit driveway after a man told police he believes he witnessed the burial of missing Teamsters leader Jimmy Hoffa about 35 years ago,

police said Wednesday.

Roseville Police Chief James Berlin said his department received a tip from a man who

said he saw a body buried approximately 35 years ago and "thinks it may have been Jimmy Hoffa."

"We are not claiming it's Jimmy Hoffa, the timeline doesn't add up," Berlin said. "We're investigating a body that may be at the location."

Hoffa was last seen on July 30, 1975, outside a suburban Detroit restaurant where he was supposed to meet with a New Jersey Teamsters boss and a Detroit Mafia captain.

His body has not been found despite a number of searches over the years.

Innumerable theories about the demise of the union boss have surfaced over time. Among them: He was entombed in concrete at Giants Stadium in New Jersey, ground up and thrown in a Florida swamp or obliterated

in a mob-owned fat-rendering plant. The search has continued under a backyard pool north of Detroit in 2003, under the floor of a Detroit home in 2004 and at a horse farm northwest of Detroit in 2006. After Roseville police received the most recent tip, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality used ground penetrating radar on a 12-foot (3.66-meter)-by-12-foot patch beneath the driveway, said agency spokesman Brad Wurfel. It found "that the earth had been disturbed at some point in time," Berlin said.

The environmental quality department on Friday will take soil samples that will be sent to a forensic anthropologist at Michigan State University to "have it tested for human decomposition," Berlin said. □



People photograph the driveway in Roseville, Mich., Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2012 where police plan to take soil samples Friday after a tipster said it could be the final resting place of missing Teamsters leader Jimmy Hoffa. Roseville Police Chief James Berlin says a man claims to have seen a body buried there approximately 35 years ago. Berlin says the man believes it could be Hoffa. Hoffa disappeared in suburban Detroit in 1975, and his remains haven't been found. (AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

## US general charged with adultery, other sex crimes

LOLITA C. BALDOR  
MICHAEL BIESECKER  
Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, North Carolina (AP) — An Army brigadier general who served five combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan has been charged with forcible sodomy, multiple counts of adultery and having inappropriate relationships with several female subordinates, two U.S. defense officials said Wednesday. The defense officials spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to provide details on the case.

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Sinclair faces possible courts martial on charges that include forced sex, wrongful sexual conduct, violating an order, possessing pornography and alcohol while deployed, and misusing a government travel charge card and filing fraudulent claims. Sinclair, who served as deputy commander in charge of logistics and support for the 82nd Airborne Division in Afghanistan, was sent home in May because of the allegations, the officials said. Since he returned to the U.S., Sinclair has been assigned as a special assistant to

the commanding general of 18th Airborne Corps. Often when general officers are under investigation they are temporarily assigned as special assistants to more senior officers or commanders.

The charges were announced at a brief press conference Wednesday at Fort Bragg, the sprawling U.S. Army base in North Carolina that is home to the 82nd Airborne. After reading a prepared statement, base spokesman Col. Kevin Arata refused to take any questions. Reporters were told all questions would have to be made in writing



This undated photo provided by the U.S. Army shows Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Sinclair. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

and that no response was likely to come until the following day. Sinclair was informed of the charges on Monday but has not been placed under arrest. The next step will be an Article 32 investigation,

including a preliminary hearing to determine if the matter should go to trial. No date has been set for the hearing, which Arata said would be open to the public. It was not clear if Sinclair had an attorney, and a phone listing found for him was disconnected. Sinclair had arrived in Afghanistan for his deployment in September 2011, but had been serving as the division's deputy commander since July 2010. Sinclair, a trained paratrooper who has been in the Army for 27 years, was serving his third deployment to Afghanistan. □





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## GOP strategy aims at traditional democratic ally

LIZETTE ALVAREZ

© 2012 New York Times  
BOCA RATON, Fla. — Using billboards, television advertisements and finely honed voter lists, Republicans here and in other battleground states have intensified an effort to lure a small but potentially significant group of new or wavering voters from President Barack Obama. Focused on South Florida, Ohio and Nevada, the Republican Jewish Coalition, backed mostly by the casino magnate Sheldon Adelson, a Zionist, has begun spending \$6.5 million on an air-and-ground strategy to reach Jewish voters who may view Obama as unreliable on the question of

Israel's security. Jewish voters, who generally vote for Democrats in big numbers, overwhelmingly supported Obama in 2008, giving him 78 percent of their vote, according to exit

polls conducted by Edison/Mitofsky. In Florida, where the largest share of the \$6.5 million is being spent, one of the group's most visible messages is along Interstate 95 and

the Florida Turnpike, including in Boca Raton and in Broward County, areas with large Jewish populations. A series of red-and-blue billboards lament: "Obama. Oy Vey!!" Then ask, "Had enough?"

Last week, the coalition began the first in a series of "buyer's remorse" television ads featuring a Jewish voter concerned about Israel and the economy who declared that he would not vote for Obama this time around.

The hope among Republican groups is to continue to erode Obama's deep-seated popularity in the Jewish community, which polls show has dropped since 2008, by emphasizing first Israel and

then the economy.

A study of Jewish voters in Florida conducted early this month by the American Jewish Committee showed that about 7 in 10 said they would vote for Obama. According to the Gallup daily tracking poll conducted from July 1 to Sept. 10, 70 percent of registered Jewish voters planned to vote for Obama, compared with 25 percent for Mitt Romney. In the spring, Gallup's poll showed Obama up 64-29 percent against Romney. Some Republicans see those numbers as an opportunity. "Sixty-nine percent still shows that President Obama has real trouble in the Jewish community, and it hints at the challenges he is facing among a reliable Democratic constituency," said Matthew Brooks, the executive director of the Republican Jewish Coalition.

"It is a significant drop," Brooks added. "And keep in mind, it is taken at the height of all the negative press and all the challenges Romney has been facing."

At the same time, the latest Quinnipiac University/New York Times/CBS News poll of likely Florida voters showed Obama with a widening lead, 53 percent to 44 percent.

Democrats said the effort to steer a meaningful number of Jewish votes to Romney is wishful thinking.

Surveys show that most voters are content with Obama's handling of Israel. □



**A Republican Jewish Coalition billboard in Palm Beach County, Fla., Sept. 21, 2012. In battleground states like Florida, Republicans are trying to persuade Jewish voters who might typically be expected to support Democrats to vote for Mitt Romney. (Jason Henry/The New York Times)**

## Chinese man charged in NYC carbon fiber sting

TOM HAYS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A Chinese national was charged Wednesday in U.S. court with trying to broker an illegal deal for large quantities of a restricted high-tech material for military purposes, but prosecutors refused to say where and when he was arrested.

The silence gave an air of mystery to a case arising from rarely publicized efforts by the United States to curtail the black market in carbon fiber.

The defendant, Ming Suan Zhang, made a brief appearance Wednesday afternoon in federal court in Brooklyn on charges he sought the material for a fighter jet in China. A magistrate jailed him without bail.

Afterward, court-appointed defense attorney Daniel Nobel said the government had asked him not to disclose the circumstances of his client's arrest, calling it a "somewhat sensitive matter."

The lawyer described the 40-year-old Zhang as "an honest businessman who was caught up in something he didn't really understand, but what believed was legal."

He said Zhang lives in Quanzhou, and works for a company that uses carbon fiber in the manufacturing of sports equipment. Skis, golf clubs and tennis rackets aside, authorities say higher-grade carbon fiber is a key component in aerospace and nuclear engineering. That's raised fears that the material could pose a risk if it falls into the hands of military foes or terrorists — and made it the subject of tight Department of Commerce regulations.

A criminal complaint accuses Zhang of contacting two Taiwanese accomplices who already were under investigation this year about buying specialized carbon fiber without an export license.

"When I place the order, I place

one to two tons," Zhang allegedly told one of the cohorts in a conversation intercepted in July. The complaint says one ton has a price tag of about \$2 million.

An undercover U.S. agent posing as a seller of carbon fiber later emailed Zhang, inviting him to the United States to meet about a possible deal.

On Aug. 10, Zhang told the agent that he was the middleman for a customer that "needed a sample of the carbon fiber because it would be used for the test flight of a 'fighter plane' on Oct. 5, 2012," the complaint says.

Zhang also informed the agent he was planning to travel to the United States the second week of September. What happened to him thereafter was unclear.

Prosecutors wouldn't discuss the arrest, Robert Nardoza, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's office in Brooklyn, said Wednesday. □



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# What's missing from pro-gay marriage TV ads? Gays

**PATRICK CONDON**  
**Associated Press**  
**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — In one American TV ad, a husband and wife talk fondly of a lesbian couple who moved into their neighborhood. In another, a married couple speaks of wanting fair treatment for their lesbian daughter. A third features a pastor talking supportively about gay unions. Each of these ads ran recently in U.S. states with gay marriage issues on the November ballot. What's missing? Gay people speaking for themselves. Four states are voting on gay marriage this fall, and gay rights groups are pouring tens of millions of dollars into key TV markets in hopes of breaking a 32-state losing streak on the issue. But even as gay people and same-sex relationships gain acceptance through pop culture staples such as "Modern Family" and "Glee," the idea is still seen as dicey by media strategists involved in the ballot campaigns, resulting in ads that usually involve only straight people talking about the issue. The decision to keep gays in the background has been widely noticed in the gay community and debated on gay-oriented blogs, with some activists complaining that the move contradicts the central message of the gay rights movement for a number of years. "If we don't show ourselves, people aren't going to get comfortable with who we are," said Wayne Besen, director of Vermont-based gay rights group "Truth Wins Out," one of many that presses gays to live openly

with pride in who they are. But others counsel deference for the complexities of public messaging, pointing out that the ads are designed to speak to the fears and values of the heterosexual majority, whose vote will decide the issue. "The moderate tough guys we need to flip to win a couple of these races are still the ones who say that gays are gross," said Andy Szekeres, a Denver-based fundraising consultant who has worked on several state campaigns and had access to focus group data. "Pushing people to an uncomfortable place, it's something you can't do in a TV ad," said Szekeres, who is gay. The definition of marriage is on the ballot this fall in Maine, Maryland, Minnesota and Washington. Beyond those, according to the Human Rights



In this photo taken Friday, Sept. 21, 2012, Alexander Zachary stands by one of his Vote No signs at his Minneapolis home. Zachary is a gay man who takes issue with TV commercials against the gay marriage ban that feature straight people talking about the issue. Voters in Minnesota will decide the Gay Marriage Amendment in the November general election.

Campaign, 37 states prohibit gay marriage while six and the District of Co-

lumbia permit it. Gay activists and their allies are hoping that any wins in November would throw new momentum their way at a time when polls nationwide have shown growing acceptance for gay marriage. Six of the seven ads broadcast in the contested states this year have featured only straight people talking about the issue. One ad, which played only in Maine, included a firefighter who talked of being accepted by his colleagues. The ads, along with most that ran in the 2008 campaign in California and in other past statewide races, rely on heterosexual family members and friends of gays talking about how the inability to marry has deprived their loved ones of rights and opportunities they should have. Gay marriage opponents, who also have well-funded campaigns in the four

states, plan to begin airing ads soon. In recent interviews, an organizer said the key message is aimed at parents, suggesting legal recognition could result in their kids being told in school and in society that it's OK to be gay. Gay activists who have worked on the marketing campaigns say that in this battle for public opinion, it's better for gays to stay in the background. "The simple truth is that we are trying to win over the people that are not yet with us," said Matt McTighe, campaign manager of Mainers United for Marriage, which is pushing the ballot measure to legalize gay marriage in that state. "I'm a gay man, and the general rule of thumb for me is that an ad that meets my emotional needs is not necessarily the thing that's going to change a typical voter's mind about gay or lesbian people." □

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| <b>DREDD</b><br>daily: 6:45 9:00<br>late show: 11:15 SP R                                                | <b>DREDD</b><br>daily: 7:00 9:30<br>late show: 11:45 SP R                                           |
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| <b>NEMO</b><br>daily: 4:45<br>matinee: 12:15 2:30 SP PG                                                  | <b>NEMO</b><br>daily: 5:00<br>matinee: 2:15 SP PG                                                   |
| <b>THE COLD LIGHT OF DAY</b><br>daily: 7:30 9:45<br>late show: 12:00 NL PG-13                            | <b>THE COLD LIGHT OF DAY</b><br>daily: 7:15 9:30<br>late show: 11:45 NL PG-13                       |
| <b>RUBY SPARKS</b><br>daily: 5:00 7:15<br>late show: R                                                   | <b>RUBY SPARKS</b><br>daily: 9:45<br>late show: 12:00 R                                             |
| <b>HIT AND RUN</b><br>daily: 9:45<br>matinee: 12:00 R                                                    | <b>HIT AND RUN</b><br>daily: 4:30 7:00 9:15<br>matinee: 11:30 R                                     |
| <b>HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2D</b><br>daily: 5:15<br>matinee: 12:30 3:00 SP NEW PG                             | <b>HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2D</b><br>daily: 4:45<br>matinee: 2:30 SP NEW PG                              |
| <b>THE POSSESSION</b><br>daily: 9:30<br>late show: 11:45 PG                                              |                                                                                                     |
| <b>NEMO 2D</b><br>daily: 12:45 SP PG                                                                     |                                                                                                     |
| <b>THE ODD LIFE OF TIMOTHY GREEN</b><br>matinee: 2:45 PG                                                 |                                                                                                     |

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# Greek anti-austerity riots shatter EU's calm

ELENA BECATOROS  
Associated Press  
ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Europe's fragile financial calm was shattered Wednesday as investors worried that violent anti-austerity protests in Greece and Spain's debt troubles showed that the continent still cannot contain its financial crisis. Police fired tear gas Wednesday at rioters hurling gasoline bombs and chunks of marble during Greece's largest anti-austerity demonstration in six months. The protests were part of a 24-hour general strike, the latest test for Greece's nearly four-month-old coalition government and the new spending cuts it plans to push through. The brief but intense clashes by several hundred rioters among the 60,000 people protesting in Athens came a day after anti-austerity protests rocked the Spanish capital.

In Madrid, thousands of angry protesters again swarmed as close as they could get Wednesday night to

Parliament, watched by a heavy contingent of riot police. There was no fresh violence, but the demonstrators cut off traffic on one of the city's major thorough-

people detained Tuesday night in clashes that injured 64 others. They also demanded new elections to oust Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy and his conser-

in a country struggling with recession and unemployment of nearly 25 percent, the highest among the 17 nations using the common euro currency.

"significantly," sending the Spanish stock index tumbling and its borrowing costs rising.

Across Europe, stock markets fell as well. Germany's DAX dropped 2 percent while the CAC-40 in France fell 2.4 percent and Britain's FTSE 100 slid 1.4 percent. The euro was also hit, down a further 0.3 percent at \$1.2840.

The turmoil Wednesday ended weeks of relative calm and optimism among investors that Europe and eurozone might have turned a corner. Markets have been breathing easier since the European Central Bank said earlier this month it would buy unlimited amounts of government bonds to help countries with their debts.

The move by the ECB helped lower borrowing costs for indebted governments from levels that only two months ago threatened to bankrupt Spain and Italy. Stocks also rose. Media speculation about the timing and cost of a eurozone breakup or a departure by troubled Greece faded.

However, the economic reality in Europe remained dire. Several countries have had to impose harsh new spending cuts, tax rises and economic reforms to meet European deficit targets and, in Greece's case, to continue getting vital aid.



**A fire bomb explodes among riot police during clashes in Athens Wednesday Sept. 26, 2012. Greek workers walked off the job Wednesday for the first general strike since the country's coalition government was formed in June, as the prime minister and finance minister hammered out a package of euros 11.5 billion (\$14.87 billion) in spending cuts. Athens has struggled to come up with more punishing austerity measures that would be acceptable to its rescue creditors, with disagreements arising between the three parties that make up the coalition government. Greece's creditors have demanded more fiscal reforms if they are to continue handing out rescue loans preventing the country from a messy default that could roil the euro. (AP Photo/Nikolas Giakoumidis)**

fares at the height of the evening commute. The protesters chanted for the release of 34

vative government, which has imposed cutbacks and tax hikes, deepening the gloom

Spain's central bank warned Wednesday the country's economy continues to shrink

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# UK court issues injunction in radical cleric case

DANICA KIRKA  
Associated Press  
LONDON (AP) — A British court issued an interim injunction Wednesday blocking the extradition of a radical cleric to the United States on terror charges, granting a court hearing for an appeal.  
Mustafa Kamal Mustafa — who is better known as Abu Hamza al-Masri — challenged his ex-

tradition on charges that include helping set up a terrorist training camp in rural Oregon. The appeal marked yet another legal twist in a case that has wound its way through the courts for eight years.  
Khaled Al-Fawwaz, a second terror suspect, has also mounted a legal challenge before Britain's High Court. Britain's Home Of-



In this Jan. 23, 2004 file photo, self-styled cleric Abu Hamza al-Masri leads his followers in prayer in a street outside Finsbury Park Mosque, on the first anniversary of its closure by anti-terrorism police, London.  
(AP Photo/John D McHugh)

an ongoing debate in Britain about extradition laws. Critics have charged that the country's laws allow litigants to drag out their cases for years.  
Lawyer Karen Todner, an extradition specialist, said the men would have to show the judge evidence of a new argument that had not been previously considered.  
"They could only have gone back to court on a new matter that wasn't apparent before, such as a new health situation," she said. The appeals follow a European court decision Monday that was believed to have cleared the way for the cleric's extradition and that of four other suspects after an eight-year legal battle. □

## Prominent Kremlin critic facing criminal charges

MAX SEDDON  
Associated Press  
MOSCOW (AP) — A Russian tycoon who has financed a newspaper critical of the Kremlin and supported the opposition has been charged with hooliganism and assault for punching a businessman during a television talk show. He dismissed the criminal case as politically motivated.  
Russia's top investigative agency, which announced the charges Wednesday, said the defendant, Alexander Lebedev, cannot leave Moscow while the probe is under way. In Russia, filing charges marks the start of a criminal investigation, which may or may not lead to a trial.  
Lebedev said in comments carried by the Interfax news agency that he considers the charges against him political and "completely made up." He could face up to seven years in prison, if he's convicted on hooliganism charges similar to those that were filed against three members of the feminist rock band Pussy Riot. They were sentenced to two years each last month for performing a "punk prayer" against President Vladimir Putin in Moscow's main cathedral.  
The charges refer to a September 2011 incident when Lebedev punched property developer Sergei Polonsky during a TV discussion of the financial crisis, sending him tumbling to the ground. After the recording, Polonsky complained he had sustained a hand injury and that his jeans were ripped. According to the charges, however, an expert medical opinion dated Aug. 31 determined that Polonsky also received bruises to his hips and face that he did not realize were harmful at the time. □

fice immediately challenged the appeals. Judicial authorities said in a statement that a hearing would be held Tuesday to consider the two men's applications. Sonn Macmillan Walker, a London law firm representing al-Masri, declined to provide details "given the sensitive nature of this matter."  
The grounds of al-Masri's appeal were not immediately clear, but it was certain to stoke



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# Rebels make gains in blunting Syrian air attacks

C.J. CHIVERS

© 2012 New York Times

ABU AD DUHUR, Syria – The rebels huddled before darkness near the edge of the Syrian Air Force base. They were about 40 men, hiding beside small buildings on the flatlands south of Aleppo.

Each man carried little more than a rifle and several dozen cartridges.

They had gathered for an effort that illustrated the lopsided nature of the fight for Syria: Lightly armed men trying to remove Syria's attack jets from the skies.

Roughly two months into this important yet scarcely documented battle, Syria's anti-government fighters have succeeded in laying siege to the heavily fortified Abu ad Duhur Air Base. They have downed at least two of the base's MiG attack jets. And this month they have realized results few would have thought possible. Having seized ground near the base's western edge, from where they can fire onto two runways, they

have forced the Syrian Air Force to cease flights to and from this place.

"We are facing aircraft and shooting down aircraft with captured weapons," said Jamal Marouf, a commander credited by the fighters with downing the first MiG-21 here. "With these weapons we are preventing aircraft from landing or taking off."

This is a significant setback for the government in the northern region, where rebels had already strengthened their position with homemade bombs, making roads too perilous for military vehicles to pass and restricting the military's movements. But air power has remained a large advantage for President Bashar Assad, whose air force has pounded many cities and towns.

For the rebels, managing to deny the use of this airfield has undermined the government's ability to exert its full authority in some parts the country. It has also improved the morale of fight-



**A Free Syrian Army fighter examines the tail section of a downed Syrian Air Force MiG-21, which was shot down by the rebel forces in Idlib, Syria, Sept. 21, 2012. Roughly two months into this important yet scarcely documented battle, Syria's anti-government fighters have succeeded in laying siege to the heavily fortified Abu ad Duhur Air Base.**

(Bryan Denton/The New York Times)

ers who remain severely outgunned.

The rebels' boldness, and its success, has not been painless. The army units inside the base have tanks, artillery and mortars. When

attacked, the soldiers often respond by firing barrages of high-explosive rounds into the nearby town, in what amounts to a tactic of collective punishment against civilians. The effects

are evident in the center of town, where block after block of buildings have been shattered. "This is the army, taking revenge," said another fighter, Abu Razaq. □

## Al-Qaida accuses France of endangering hostages

AZIZ EL YAAKOUBI

Associated Press

RABAT, Morocco (AP) —

The North African branch of al-Qaida said Wednesday that France has broken off negotiations over the French hostages it has held over the past two years, endangering their lives.

Al-Qaida kidnapped four French employees of the Areva nuclear energy corporation from the northern Niger town of Arlit in September 2010. "We call on the families of the hostages to make noise about this issue and say that silence is the biggest danger to your children," said the statement, which appeared on jihadi websites. "We cannot guarantee the health of the hostages if your government continues to neglect (this matter)."

The statement added that al-Qaida was always ready to negotiate, while criticiz-



**In this Aug. 29, 2012 image from video obtained by the private Mauritanian news website SAHARAMEDIAS via AP video, and which has been authenticated based on its content and other AP reporting, Daniel Larribe, one of four French hostages held for nearly two years, urges French President Francois Hollande to negotiate for their release with their captors, al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb.**

(AP Photo/SAHARAMEDIAS via AP video)

ing French President Francois Hollande for exacerbating the situation by calling for an invasion of Mali, where the northern half has been conquered by Islamist extremists and the hostages are believed to be held.

The statement came as

French President Francois Hollande, attending a meeting on the Sahel at the United Nations, called on the Security Council to meet quickly and adopt a resolution that would allow an African military intervention in Mali "as quickly as possible." □

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## Latin Briefs

## Mexico declares Cozumel island a nature reserve

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — Mexico's environmental authorities say they have declared the northern shore of the Caribbean island of Cozumel a protected nature area, with strict limits on human activity there. The Environment Department says about 146 square miles (378 square kilometers) of the island and coastal waters will be protected under the measure. The area designated Wednesday constitutes the shores and offshore shelf on the northern half of the island. The area is mostly unpopulated and well away from Cozumel's town, marinas and cruise ship dock. Two species have native ranges only on the island: the Cozumel spiny lizard and the Cozumel racoon, which is a dwarf raccoon. □

## Brazil launches plan to stop urban violence

**BRASILIA, Brazil (AP)** — Brazil's government is launching a pilot program that aims to reduce violence among young blacks, who suffer a higher homicide rate than any other group. Racial Equality Minister Luiza Bairros says the Live Youth program will kick off in the northeastern city of Maceio. It will expand education programs, create cultural spaces in violent communities and train people to work with at-risk youth. The country's Health Ministry says 53 percent of all murders in Brazil involve young male victims, with blacks making up 75 percent of those youth. Brazil claims the world's second biggest population of African descent, only behind Nigeria. Official figures show Brazil's black population has made some advances. Their income has grown by 67 percent over the past decade, compared to 45 percent for income among whites. □

## Google's Brazil chief detained in YouTube case

**JENNY BARCHFIELD  
JULIANA BARBASSA  
Associated Press**

**RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)** — Google Inc.'s head of operations in Brazil was detained by the country's federal police Wednesday after the company failed to heed a judge's order to take down YouTube videos that the court ruled violate Brazilian electoral law. The detention came as another court ordered YouTube to remove clips of an anti-Islam film that has been blamed for deadly protests by Muslims around the globe, both joining a spate of court-ordered content-removal cases against Google's video-sharing website in Brazil.

The arrest of Google executive Fabio Jose Silva Coelho was announced in Sao Paulo. A press release issued by the federal police said he was not expected to remain in jail and should be released later in the day after signing a document promising to appear in court.

Brazil's strict electoral laws limit what critics can say on television, radio and the Internet about candidates for office. Ahead of municipal elections next month,

Google has received repeated requests to remove Web videos that allegedly violate those restrictions.

paternity suit aimed at Alcides Bernal, who is running for mayor of the city of Campo Grande. That



**Google executive Fabio Jose Silva Coelho poses for a portrait in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Google Inc.'s head of operations in Brazil was detained by the country's federal police Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2012 after the company failed to heed a judge's order to take down YouTube videos that the court ruled violate Brazilian electoral law. The detention came as another court ordered YouTube to remove clips of an anti-Islam film that has been blamed for deadly protests by Muslims around the globe, both joining a spate of court-ordered content-removal cases against Google's video-sharing website in Brazil.**

(AP Photo/Carol Carquejeiro, Agencia O Globo)

A judge in Mato Grosso do Sul state ordered Coelho's arrest Tuesday because the company had not removed YouTube videos that make incendiary comments about an alleged

ruling also included a statewide, 24-hour suspension of Google and YouTube. It was not immediately clear if and how that aspect of the ruling might be carried out.

Google said Tuesday that it was appealing the decision. "Being a platform, Google is not responsible for the content posted on its site," the company said in an emailed statement from Sao Paulo. A judge in the southern state of Parana earlier ordered Google to pay \$500,000 for each day that it balked at fulfilling an order to remove other videos criticizing a candidate. In the northeastern state of Paraiba, a judge ordered the imprisonment of another Google executive in Brazil, also for not removing videos from YouTube attacking a mayoral candidate, but that order was overruled by a higher court. Eva Galperin of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, which promotes digital freedom, said the rash of Brazilian cases was "disappointing, but not surprising" ahead of the country's nationwide municipal elections on Oct. 7 and Oct. 28. "The Internet is global, but laws are made nation by nation," she said. "There is a struggle between nation states and their laws and the freedom of expression policies of companies that host content all over the globe." □

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# After bitter decline, Cuban sugar looks to rebound

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

JARONU, Cuba (AP) —

Cuba's signature industry is showing signs of life two years after the worst harvest in more than a century.

Hulking processing plants are coming back online and production is rising, a boon to rural towns like Jaronu where producing sugar has been a way of life for generations.

Officials recently said that the harvest is expected to increase by 20 percent in the coming season after jumps of 7 percent and 16 percent in the last two harvests.

At the Brasil refinery in the steamy central province of Camaguey, a \$6 million makeover is under way. During a recent visit, bulldozers were busy regrading the floor, operators were laying foundations for new machinery and workers buzzed about, hammering and welding amid a deafening mechanic roar and a pervasive oily odor. "I've never seen as much

money being spent here as there is now," said Alo-dia Campo, a 54-year-old plant engineer and among

denly more profitable, and a radical reorganization of the sector could offer a blueprint for how to lift the

country," said Liobel Perez, spokesman for Azcuba, the largely autonomous state-run company that replaced the Sugar Ministry in late 2011.

"Sugarcane will not define Cuba's future, but it will have to be a part of it."

Just two years ago, the sugar industry was on its knees. The sugar minister had been sacked. State-run newspapers lambasted rampant inefficiency and thousands of workers were moved to other sectors. Eventually, the powerful Sugar Ministry itself was eliminated.

Even with the current reorganization, sugar revenues are far outpaced by sectors such as tourism and nickel mining.

Last year, sugar earnings were \$333 million, while nickel brought in \$1.25 billion, according to a study compiled by Rafael Romeu, a U.S.-based economist and former president of the Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy. Tourism brought in \$2.5 billion in revenue in 2011, according to government

figures.

President Raul Castro created Azcuba as part of his effort to stimulate the farm sector and streamline a fossilized Marxist economy that even he says doesn't work anymore.

Unlike virtually every other part of the state-dominated economy, Azcuba gets to keep 65 percent of its revenues and make decisions about reinvesting without having to ask permission from the central government.

At the Brasil refinery, the mammoth rust-covered sheds installed by American Sugar Refining Co., which launched the plant in 1921, still stand.

Although surrounded by the twisted carcasses of machinery ripped out of the structures, the Brasil is expected to be ready for the upcoming annual harvest and start milling cane by February.

That would have seemed an unlikely prospect during most of the last decade. The plant mostly sat idle or was intermittently used as a grain depot, with only 50 employees remaining from a workforce that once numbered 500.

The refinery came back online briefly in 2008, only to be shuttered after two years because it was so inefficient.

The Brasil's near-demise mirrors sugar's decline from the times when it accounted for 80 percent of Cuba's export income, principally from the nearby U.S. market before relations between the two countries soured in the 1960s.

The crop fueled Cuba's rum industry and permeated popular culture. Iconic singer Celia Cruz was famed for interjecting cries of "Azucar!" ("sugar") in her songs.

Over the decades since Cuba's 1959 revolution, bureaucratic mismanagement created a slow-growing crisis that exploded in 2002, said Arturo Lopez-Levy, a Cuban economist at the University of Denver. At that time, sugar sold for just 6 cents a pound on world markets. □



**In this Sept. 8, 2012 photo, people drive a classic American car past a sugar cane field in Camaguey, Cuba. Just two years ago, Cuba's sugar industry was on its knees after the worst harvest in more than a century. Now Cuba's signature industry is showing signs of life. With world market prices rebounding, sugar is suddenly more profitable, and a reorganization of the sector could offer a blueprint for how to lift up the rest of the island's economy.**

(AP Photo/Franklin Reyes)

the few employees still remaining from the Brasil's glory days. With world market prices rebounding, sugar is sud-

rest of the island's inefficient command economy. "The Cuban sugar industry is tied to the culture, history and identity of this

Column:

## Recession strikes at Spanish sport

JOHN LEICESTER

AP Sports Columnist

PARIS (AP) — With its array of courses and short-sleeved climate, Spain made a natural home for professional golf. In 2011, the land of Seve Ballesteros hosted seven European Tour tournaments, more than any other country. Next year, that could plummet to just one, the Spanish Open.

Deep in recession, with unemployment near 25 percent, putting up purses to entice golf's big names is a luxury Spain can ill-afford. Government tourist boards that once bankrolled tournaments to sell Spain as a destination and companies that provided sponsorship often no longer have the money or do not want to be seen spending it on

golf when Spaniards are so squeezed financially. The \$1.3 million Iberdrola Open, won in 2011 by Darren Clarke two months before his British Open victory, vanished from the Tour schedule this year, with the Madeira Islands Open in Portugal filling its slot.

Also gone are the \$2.6 million Castello Masters and the \$3.9 million Andalucia Masters, both won in 2011 by Sergio Garcia. Replacing them next month are the \$7 million BMW Masters in Shanghai, China, and the Perth International in Australia.

The Madrid Masters, where England's Lee Slattery in 2011 got his first Tour win, was also canceled, leaving a hole in the Tour schedule last week. No replacement could be found for Bankia,

the bailed-out Spanish bank that had sponsored the \$1.3 million event.



**Golfers tee off on a practice range at the Madrid Open golf tournament in Alcala de Henares on the outskirts of Madrid. Deep in recession, with unemployment near 25 percent, putting up purses to entice golf's big names is a luxury Spain can ill-afford.**

(AP Photo/Paul White)

"It's just tough times, really, there's no money," said Javier Gervas, CEO of Match-Golf, which promoted both

Iberdrola and Castello. "Salaries are not going up, the cost of life is increasing, and people are just holding tight."

The indebted government in the eastern coastal region of Valencia, through its tourist board, was the Castello's main sponsor. The tournament got 1,500 hours of international television coverage in 2011, "pure advertising" for Spain, with enticing images of golfers playing in autumn sun in late October, Gervas said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. But Valencia "cannot be seen spending money on a tournament, on a golf event, when people are suffering, when they are laying off people in various areas of the administration," he said. □





## Team Aruba looking for luck to change at Norwalk



**UNION, S.C. September 25, 2012:** Team Aruba has faced their share of difficulties this season. Even in their efforts to make it to the track have been thwarted, as they readied themselves to hit the road to Ohio for the ADRL Summit Racing Equipment Ohio Drags they found parts of their trailer chassis in need of repairs. So after completing the 1500 mile trip from Aruba to the shop base in Union, S.C. driver Trevor Eman found himself welding and completing necessary repairs before completing the remainder of his journey. Needless to say, Team Aruba is ready for things to start looking up. "While our runner up finish in St. Louis has certainly been the highlight of our season, we're hungry for more of that kind of luck, rather than the kind that leaves us on the outside looking in," told Eman. "With two events left in the season, we're really hoping to finish strong and put a

good note on the end of a tough year." While the cards may not always fall in Team Aruba's favor, it's certainly not for lack of effort on their part. The team has shown great fortitude throughout the season and always manages to keep the friendly smile for which Arubans are famous. Looking on the bright side, Eman continued: "Another highlight of our season has been our displays with Alltel Wireless. We will have two this week leading up to the Ohio Drags. First, we'll be in Mansfield on Tuesday and then Norwalk on Wednesday. Fans can stop by to take photos with our Aruba.com/Alltel Wireless Mustang as well as check out Alltel's great deals. Then they can all come cheer us on at the race! "We have a lot of confidence in our Kaase engine and our Haas chassis. With all the good people and companies we are surrounded with, we know our luck

has to change soon. Hopefully we can finish the year smoothly for Aruba.com and Alltel Wireless and start to look forward to the 2013 season. "Norwalk is one of my favorite tracks, so I am really looking forward to racing again at the wonderful facility the Bader family has constructed. Unfortunately, my father will not be at this race. He is organizing a monster truck show in Aruba for the end of October and needs to stay in Aruba to manage the operations for that show. Although I always want him to be with us, I would also love to take a trophy back home to him!" Keep up with Team Aruba at [www.facebook.com/teamarubaracing](http://www.facebook.com/teamarubaracing) and on Twitter @TeamArubaRacing. Find race results, team updates, videos and photos. Also leave your comments to cheer on Team Aruba! □



# Fast Rental Karts at Bushiri Karting Speedway!



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## Beauty On The Beach

# Dawn Hardone

She is from Boston, MA. She has been visiting Aruba for the 15th time. This time it is double celebration, her 20th Wedding Anniversary and her husband will be the Best man at a local friends wedding. The reason why she is loyal to Aruba is the kindness of the local people.

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## The Blue Lobster



# In an exclusive Louis Vuitton gown: Downton Abbey's Michelle Dockery sparkles on the Emmy red carpet



At the 64th Primetime Emmy Awards Monday night, Downtown Abbey's Michelle Dockery, wearing a dusty royal blue satin duchesse bustier gown, was chosen among best dressed by different celebrity media. The exclusive evening gown featuring a peplum and a front neckline of transparent organza was made in the Louis Vuitton Paris atelier, and certainly revealed once again the savoir-faire of the fashion house.

Thirty-year-old Michelle Dockery was nominated for the Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series Emmy Award and judging from the many reviews of her perfect look and Louis

Vuitton gown, she most certainly took home the award for most outstanding fashionista on the Emmy red carpet. Grazia Mail reports Michelle Dockery was among the evening's best dressed, her look got their observers "most excited". "I just love it. I feel really comfortable. The pockets make me feel so cool. It's so elegant. I am just so happy," the actress who plays Lady Mary Crawley told a Grazia Mail reporter. The Daily Mail named Michelle Dockery the "winner in the styles stakes", while The Sun introduced their Emmy article stating that she "sparkled on the red carpet in a classy figure-hugging gown." Summer is officially over

and on Aruba the focus has already shifted to the year-end holidays. With the current Kusama collection available in the Louis Vuitton boutique located at Renaissance Mall, your Holiday inspired look will surely be fulfilled and completed with the classic chic LV touch- whether it is sunglasses, a scarf, shoes, clutches or even the most special handbag - and feel like a red carpet star. □

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# Coco is looking for friends and family members

We would like to introduce you to Coco, one of the donkeys that has found shelter at the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary. Coco was found in the Seroe Colorado district. Although she was limping badly, she was not easy to catch. For these cases our stun gun is the only solution. Because Coco's front leg was dislocated and she was walking on the side of her hoof, we went straight to the vet, but after looking at her X-ray, he stated that dislocation was the culprit. He straightened her leg right away; that was easy as Coco was still under sedation. The donkey then had to wear a plaster cast for three weeks; we kept her skin clean and disinfected and now she only has a tiny scar to



prove that she has ever been injured. Coco is not limping any longer and together with her fast friend Maartje she is enjoying her life at the Donkey Sanctuary. This beautiful donkey has been provided with a chip, just like all the other donkeys.

On the chip is information about the donkey and its medical history. The donkeys at the sanctuary have a lot of friends with whom they can play all day long. And they love living there: they are well-cared for, they are fed and watered and when

they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expensive customers for the sanctuary.

The volunteers are trying to cover the various costs with all kinds of activities and the sale of great donkey memorabilia in the shop. Fortunately, there are also visitors who wish to adopt a donkey, who buy something at the donkey shop or who make a donation. Thus they help support us. Everyone is welcome to visit the sanctuary, which has opening hours from 9 am until 4 pm and in the weekend from 10 am until 3. Entry is free of charge and one can enjoy a soft drink, a cup of coffee or a refreshing ice cream.

The volunteers of the sanctuary are hop-

ing that somebody will adopt this friendly, lovely donkey. Of course the donkey will keep on living at the sanctuary; you only need to pay AWG. 30,- per month for the donkey's keep. With this amount you help support the sanctuary as well as your own donkey. And you will receive a beautiful certificate and a super T-shirt and your name and photo will be posted on our website. So please call the sanctuary at 593-2933; you can also register via the website [www.aruban-donkey.org](http://www.aruban-donkey.org) or donate money on bank account number 40.03.025 at the Aruba Bank! Just do it! Would you like to follow the donkeys on Facebook: surf to Donkey Sanctuary Aruba please. □

## Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

### Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"



**ORANJESTAD** - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby

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**Driftwood Restaurant**

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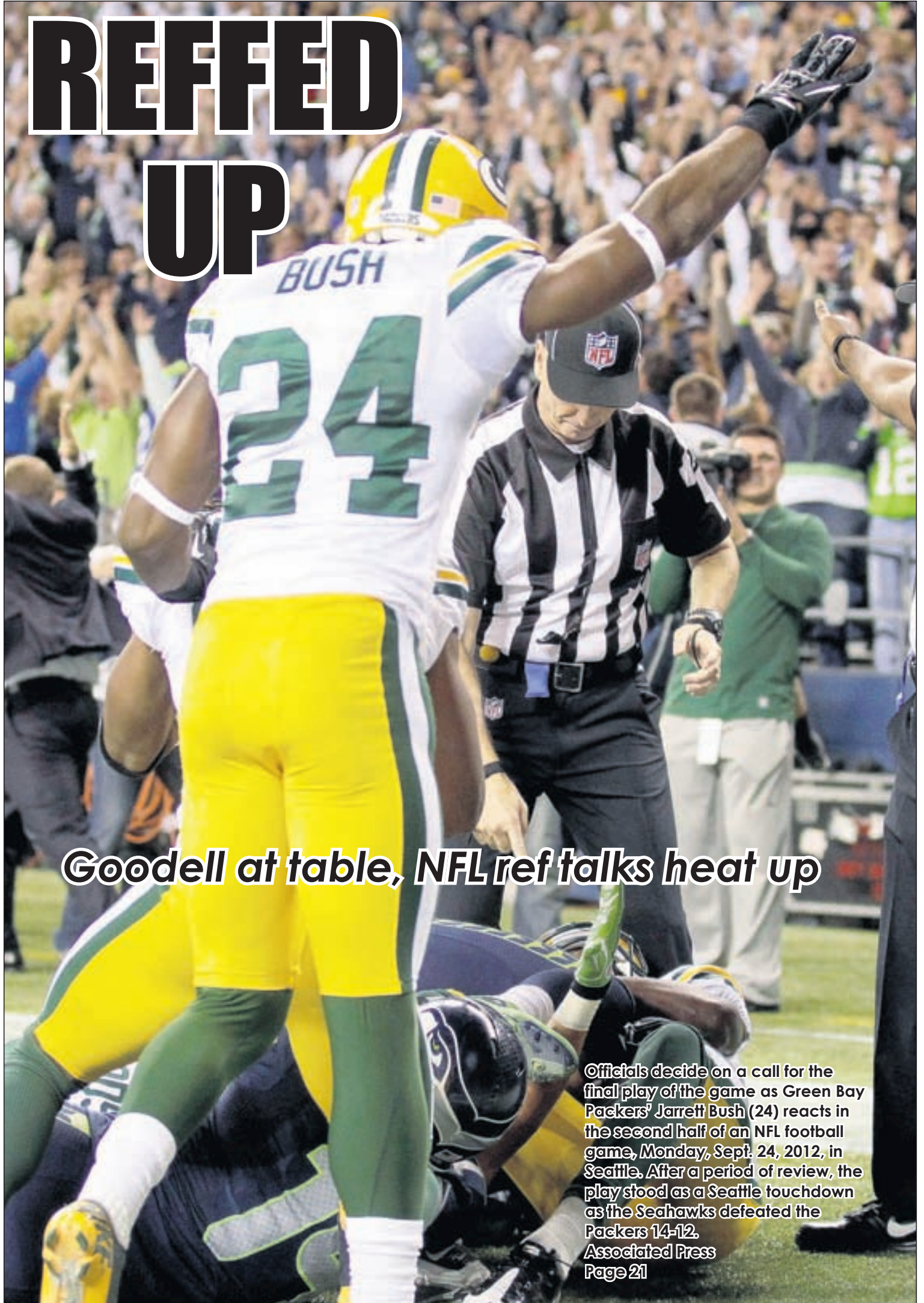




In this April 3, 2012, file photo, Baylor center Brittney Griner (42) reacts to her shot during the second half in the NCAA Women's Final Four college basketball championship game against the Notre Dame in Denver.  
Associated Press

## Phoenix wins No. 1 pick in WNBA draft lottery

DOUG FEINBERG  
AP Basketball Writer  
BRISTOL, Connecticut (AP) — The Phoenix Mercury won the WNBA draft lottery Wednesday night and earned the right to choose Brittney Griner with the top pick next year. Chicago will pick second and Tulsa third. Washington, which had the worst record in the league will pick fourth. The Mystics (5-29) had a 44 percent chance to win the top pick. The Mercury (7-27) had the second worst record in the league and a 28 percent chance of getting the No. 1 choice. The 6-foot-8 center Griner, The Associated Press women's college basketball player of the year, guided Baylor to a national championship and 40-0 record. □



# REFFED UP

## Goodell at table, NFL ref talks heat up

Officials decide on a call for the final play of the game as Green Bay Packers' Jarrett Bush (24) reacts in the second half of an NFL football game, Monday, Sept. 24, 2012, in Seattle. After a period of review, the play stood as a Seattle touchdown as the Seahawks defeated the Packers 14-12.  
Associated Press  
Page 21

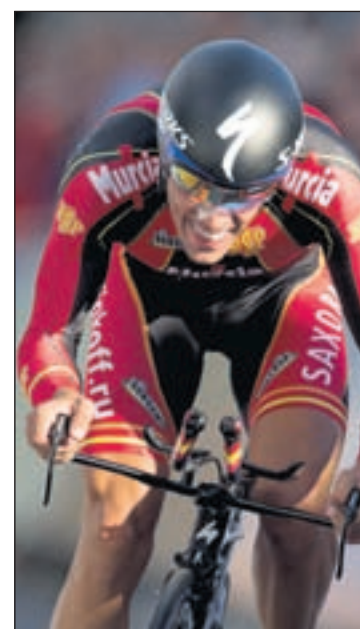




Maria Sharapova of Russia returns a shot to Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic during their third round match of the Japan Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament in Tokyo, Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2012.

Associated Press

## Contador wins revived Milano-Torino road race



Spain's Alberto Contador strains as he crosses the finish line of the men's time trial event of the Road World Championship Cycling over 28.6 miles near Valkenburg, southern Netherlands, Wednesday Sept. 19, 2012.

Associated Press

## Edwin Moses voted USADA board chair

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado (AP)** — Former track great Edwin Moses has been voted chair of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency's board of directors.

USADA said Wednesday that Moses was selected to fill the chair position at the Sept. 13 board meeting. Moses succeeds founding board member Dr. Richard Cohen, who is rotating off the board because of terms limits.

"The use of dangerous performance-enhancing drugs is one of the most important issues facing sport today, and our mission at USADA, to ensure that all clean athletes can compete on a level playing field, is vitally important not only for this generation of athletes but all the generations to come," Moses said in a statement.

"I have been honored to serve on the USADA board since 2010 and as chair I look forward to continuing to support USADA's staff in successfully fulfilling our mission through our commitment to the highest standards of excellence." □

# Azarenka reaches quarterfinals at Pan Pacific Open



Victoria Azarenka of Belarus reacts after losing a point against Roberta Vinci of Italy during their third round match of the Japan Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament in Tokyo, Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2012.

Associated Press

**JIM ARMSTRONG**  
AP Sports Writer

**TOKYO (AP)** — Top-ranked Victoria Azarenka of Belarus overcame a dizzy spell to beat Italy's Roberta Vinci 6-4, 6-2 on Wednesday and advance to the quarterfinals of the Pan Pacific Open.

Azarenka, playing in her first tournament since losing in the U.S. Open final to Serena Williams, had her blood pressure checked after going down 4-3 in the first set but bounced back to win the next three games.

"I felt dizzy on the court and my head was spinning in between points which made it difficult to focus," Azarenka said. "What exactly it is, I don't know. I am still trying to figure it out. Hopefully, I'll know as soon as possible and get rid of it." Azarenka improved to 3-0 in head-to-head matches against the 14th-seeded Vinci and will meet fifth-seeded Angelique Kerber in Thursday's quarterfinals. Kerber defeated Urszula Radwanska of Poland 6-1, 6-1. Two-time champion Maria Sharapova defeated Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic 6-2, 7-6 (5) to set up a quarterfinal meeting with eighth-seeded Sam Stosur of Australia, a 6-4, 7-5 winner over Slovakia's Dominika Cibulkova.

The second-seeded Sharapova was coming off a tough, three-hour win over British qualifier Heather Watson on Tuesday, while Safarova advanced to the third round on a walkover. Sharapova coasted through the first set and led 3-0 before Safarova mount-

ed a comeback, breaking Sharapova three times to take a 6-5 lead.

Sharapova broke Safarova in the final game to force a tiebreaker, which she won with an ace.

"After a long match yesterday I was really happy to win in two sets," Sharapova said. "I had a bit of a letdown in the second set but was really happy that I could close it out in the tiebreaker." In other matches, Sara Errani of Italy beat Marion Bartoli 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 to set up a quarterfinal showdown with Nadia Petrova of Russia, who beat Petra Martic of Croatia 7-6 (2), 6-7 (1), 6-4.

After struggling in the first set, the sixth-seeded Errani broke Bartoli in the second game of the second set and never looked back.

"It was a tough match on this fast court," said Errani, who has won three titles this year. "I didn't start off well but neither did she. She got a little tired in the second set and that's when I started to play better."

Former No. 1 Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark, seeded 10th, beat China's Li Na 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 and will face third-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska in the quarterfinals. Radwanska beat American player Jamie Hampton 6-4, 6-3. □

**MILAN (AP)** — Alberto Contador won the revived Milano-Torino road race on Wednesday, his second title since returning from a doping ban.

Contador moved ahead of the peloton on the final climb to the Basilica di Superga and held on for his first victory in a one-day 199-kilometer (123-mile) race. Diego Ulissi of Italy was second, while Fredrik Kessiakoff of Sweden was third.

Contador returned from a doping ban in August, and won the Spanish Vuelta earlier this month.

He tested positive for clenbuterol en route to winning the 2010 Tour de France, blaming contaminated meat for the result. He lost his appeal in February.

"I'm very, very happy to win, especially in Italy," Contador said. "This morning when I woke up, I weighed 2.4 kilograms more than in the Vuelta. I knew there were over 190 kilometers to do, that I didn't train yesterday and that the day before yesterday I did only 40 kilometers. But the point was to get to the finish line with strength in my legs." □



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# McIlroy the 'marked man' of this Ryder Cup

**DOUG FERGUSON**  
AP Golf Writer

**MEDINAH, Illinois (AP)** — Rory McIlroy has gone from being a rookie in the Ryder Cup to a marked man at Medinah.

McIlroy is the first European in nearly 20 years to go into the Ryder Cup as the No. 1 player in the world, although the star power of this 23-year-old from Northern Ireland is defined by much more than a computer ranking. He already has won two majors, with a record score in the U.S. Open last year at Congressional and a record margin at the PGA Championship last month at Kiawah Island. His four wins this year are the most of anyone in the world, all against the strongest fields.

So it was no surprise when Jim Furyk referred to Boy Wonder as the "present day Tiger Woods" and a "marked man" at this Ryder Cup. That's the role Woods played for so many years in these matches when he dominated golf.

There was a feeling among Europeans that beating Woods was worth more than one point because of the emotional lift it gave the rest of the team.

McIlroy doesn't see it that way.

"This week I'm not the No. 1 player in the world," he said Wednesday. "I'm one person in a 12-man team, and that's it. It's a team effort. There's 12 guys all striving toward the same goal. I'm just part of that."

But even in this team competition, it's easy to get wrapped in a single star, as it was for Woods.

There's only one way to keep score in the Ryder Cup, though it's tempting to make individuals accountable. Even when Woods

was at his best, he still could only deliver a maximum of five points if he played every match. He never came close, and didn't even produce a winning record until his fifth Ryder Cup.

"I don't have a number. I don't have a total," McIlroy said. "I think with the U.S. playing here at home, I think they are the favorites. It's a very strong team. So we know we have got to go out there and play very, very well to have a chance. So if I play on Friday morning, I just want to get my point and then take it from there."

Wednesday brought the Ryder Cup one day closer to the start of matches that are growing in anticipation. Both teams look strong on paper, with all 24 players among the top 35 in the world. The Americans are loaded with experience behind Woods, Furyk and Phil Mickelson. Europe has only one Ryder Cup rookie, Nicolas Colsaerts, and has the experience when it comes to winning. It has captured the cup six of the last eight times.

And while captains Davis Love III and Jose Maria Olazabal have preached civility and respect throughout the week, leave it to Ian Poulter to set the record straight on how the intensity can change when the first tee shot is struck Friday morning.

"It's not that we don't like each other," the Englishman said. "We are all good friends, both sides of the pond. But there's something about Ryder Cup which kind of intrigues me, how you can be great mates with somebody, but boy, do you want to kill them in Ryder Cup."

Poulter is not alone. Among the four American rookies



Europe's Rory McIlroy looks over a putt on the first hole during a practice round at the Ryder Cup PGA golf tournament Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2012, at the Medinah Country Club in Medinah, Ill. Associated Press

is Brandt Snedeker, coming off an \$11.44 million payday for winning the Tour Championship and the FedEx Cup.

"I'm very, very competitive," Snedeker said. "People don't get that, because I'm polite. But I tee it up on Friday here — tee it up against anybody — I'm going to try to beat their brains in as bad as I can."

Love brought the first dose of tears to Medinah when talking about the time spent Tuesday night at a team dinner, when he showed a video of past captains and spoke of the camaraderie in the team room. Then, he dressed his team in bright red pants for a practice session of foursomes, keeping together the same partnerships he had the previous day. Olazabal mixed up his team ever so slightly, with Luke Donald and Sergio Garcia together. They are 4-0 in foursomes.

Both teams played only nine holes, trying to conserve energy for the most dynamic

three days in golf. Even for such a short practice sessions, fans poured into Medinah and set a tone for the noise level, chanting, "USA! USA!" just for players leaving the practice range.

McIlroy, for all his ability, is so unfailingly polite and respectful that everyone likes him. Woods calls him "such a great kid." The gallery adores him. Perhaps for the first time in his career, he might not get a lot of love from the other side of the ropes.

"I expect it to be loud. I expect them to cheer for them," McIlroy said. "Hopefully, I won't get heckled, but if I do, then you've just got to stay calm and be focused on the golf and just get on with it."

He could not think of a time when he has heard it from a heckler.

"But just because of my hair," McIlroy said, touching his curly brown locks. "Nothing too insulting."

As for the notion that he has the biggest target on

the back of his European uniform? McIlroy says that's nothing more than a compliment.

Love doesn't buy into the idea that beating McIlroy is any better than beating a team that features Francesco Molinari or Martin Kaymer. The captain has wondered if a loss by any of his top players would be a boost for Europe, "but I hadn't really looked at it from their side."

"I don't know if that's worth scratching my head over," Love said. "I didn't go to bed until 2:30 already thinking about my team. If I had to think about their team, I wouldn't get any sleep, because they're as strong as we are."

Steve Stricker sees it differently.

He has become Woods' favorite partner over the last three years. They went undefeated in the Presidents Cup at Harding Park in 2009, and were 2-1 as a partnership at Wales in the last Ryder Cup. □



## AL Capsules

# Sanchez's shutout puts Tigers in tie for first

## The Associated Press

**DETROIT (AP)** — Anibal Sanchez threw his first shutout in over a year, and Detroit moved into a tie for first place in the AL Central with a 2-0 victory over Kansas City on Tuesday night.

Detroit pulled even with Chicago with eight games to play after the White Sox lost 4-3 to Cleveland earlier in the day.

Sanchez (4-6) retired the first 11 hitters he faced and allowed only three hits. He struck out 10 and walked one. He threw 105 pitches in his first shutout since Sept. 10, 2011, when he tossed a one-hitter for Florida at Pittsburgh.

Bruce Chen (11-13) gave up RBI singles by Prince Fielder and Delmon Young in the first inning.

The Tigers trailed the White Sox by three games on the morning of Sept. 19, but they've made up the ground and will have a chance to win a second straight division title if they can finish strongly enough. Chen allowed two runs and 10 hits in 6 2-3 innings.



**Detroit Tigers starting pitcher Anibal Sanchez celebrates as Kansas City Royals' Billy Butler, left, grounds out to first base in the ninth inning of a baseball game in Detroit, Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2012. Detroit won 2-0.**

## Associated Press

Sanchez has six quality starts in his last seven outings.

INDIANS 4, WHITE SOX 3  
CHICAGO (AP) — Chicago gave Detroit an opening to tie for the AL Central lead when Gordon Beckham hit into a game-ending force-out with the potential tying run on second base in the loss to last-place Cleveland.

The Tigers took it with a 2-0 victory over Kansas City. Down 4-0, the White Sox closed when A.J. Pierzynski and Dayan Viciedo hit consecutive fifth-inning home runs off Corey Kluber (2-4) and then pulled within a run when Paul Konerko homered off Chris Perez leading off the ninth. Perez walked two batters with two outs, and Beck-

ham grounded to shortstop Asdrubal Cabrera, who threw to second baseman Jason Kipnis for the force. Chicago (82-72) had held sole possession of the division lead since Sept. 3. Francisco Liriano (6-12) allowed all four runs and seven hits in 3 2-3 innings. He is 1-2 with a 6.30 ERA in his last seven appearances. Kluber (2-4) gave up four hits in seven innings, retiring nine of his last 10 batters. Vinnie Pestano and Perez completed the six-hitter, with Perez gaining his 37th save in 41 chances.

Russ Canzler had three hits and homered for the second straight game, putting Cleveland ahead in the second.

TWINS 5, YANKEES 4  
MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Phil Hughes ran out of gas in the seventh inning and Boone Logan couldn't hold the lead for him as New York missed a chance to go up 2½ games on Baltimore. Hughes (16-13) was strong through six innings and the Yankees took a 3-1 lead. But he left with the bases

loaded and two outs in the seventh, and Logan let one run score on a wild pitch before giving up a two-run double to Denard Span that put the Twins in front.

Joe Mauer followed with his third single of the game to cap the four-run seventh, and the Twins held on to keep the Orioles, who lost to Toronto earlier Tuesday, 1½ games behind New York in the AL East.

Nick Swisher homered for the third straight game. Russell Martin also went deep and Andruw Jones hit a pinch-hit solo shot off of closer Glen Perkins in the ninth inning for the Yankees. But Perkins struck out Jayson Nix for his 15th save. Martin's soaring shot in the seventh off Casey Fien (2-1) was his 19th this season, which ties a career high, and gave New York a 3-1 lead.

BLUE JAYS 4, ORIOLES 0  
BALTIMORE (AP) — Aaron Laffey and five relievers combined on a six-hitter as Toronto beat Baltimore for the second straight game. □



**Atlanta Braves' Freddie Freeman watches his two-run home run in the ninth inning against the Miami Marlins in a baseball game Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2012, in Atlanta. The Braves won 4-3, clinching a playoff spot.**

## Associated Press

## The Associated Press

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Freddie Freeman hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning to put the Atlanta Braves back in the playoffs with a 4-3 victory over the Miami Marlins on Tuesday night. Freeman's drive off Mike Dunn clinched at least an NL wild-card berth for the

Braves, who squandered a big lead in the wild-card race with a huge collapse last September. Longtime star Chipper Jones, who plans to retire at the end of the season, led off the ninth with a double. He moved to third on a wild pitch by Dunn (0-3) and scored when Freeman's

## NL Capsules

# Braves back in playoffs with 4-3 win over Marlins

22nd homer easily cleared the center-field wall. Craig Kimbrel (3-1) worked a scoreless inning to help the Braves win their 22nd straight game started by Kris Medlen.

The streak is the longest in the majors since the New York Yankees won 22 consecutive games started by Whitey Ford in 1950 and '53.

REDS 4, BREWERS 2  
CINCINNATI (AP) — Johnny Cueto pitched seven solid innings, and the Cincinnati Reds stayed in the chase for the NL's top record by beating Milwaukee after learning they'll be without their manager for the rest of the week.

The Brewers dropped back-to-back games for the first time in more than a month, and fell to 4½ games behind St. Louis for the final NL wild card spot as the Cardinals later beat Houston 4-0. Reds manager Dusty Baker met players before the game and revealed he suffered a mini-stroke in addition to being treated for an irregular heartbeat last week. The 63-year-old manager hopes to return to the dugout next week.

The Brewers couldn't do much against Cueto (19-9), who is rounding back into form as the playoffs approach. Mike Fiers (9-9) gave up nine hits and four runs in 4 1-3 innings for Mil-

waukee.

DIAMONDBACKS 7, GIANTS 2

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Paul Goldschmidt hit a three-run homer and a pair of sacrifice flies for a career-high five RBIs.

Goldschmidt on his own gave Josh Collmenter (5-3) plenty of support as Arizona won for the seventh time in its last nine games. The D-backs are trying to keep their slim NL wild-card hopes alive.

Aaron Hill had three hits and scored three runs, and Arizona scored two of its runs on wild pitches on a cool night featuring swirling mist above the field in the early innings. □



# Reports: NFL, referees closing in on new deal

**TIM REYNOLDS**  
AP Sports Writer

Two days after a controversial call cost the Green Bay Packers a win, the NFL and the referees' union are reportedly nearing an end to a lockout that put replacement officials on the field since the start of the season.

According to several reports, the NFL and the union are close to a new deal that would allow the league's regular officials to return to work, possibly as early as this weekend. ESPN reported Wednesday that "an agreement in principle is at hand," and The New York Times reported that the sides "were closing in" on a way to end the impasse. ESPN cited unidentified sources from both sides; the Times cited a person briefed on the negotiations.

The NFL declined to confirm that a deal was imminent. "Until somebody tells me differently, it's not really changed," Arizona coach Ken Whisenhunt said.

Still, even the suggestion that regular refs could be back as early as Sunday was greeted with welcoming words.

"If it's final and they are, I'm sure a lot of people will be happy — and I'll be one of those guys, too," Minnesota running back Adrian Peterson said on a conference call with reporters from Detroit in advance of the upcoming Vikings-Lions game. NFL agent David Canter tweeted: "Welcome back real refs. Just remember when you blow a call you'll get no sympathy."

A person briefed on the negotiations told The Associated Press that talks between the league and its officials resumed Wednesday morning after a short break following a 14-hour meeting that started Tuesday. The person spoke to AP on condition of anonymity because the discussions were not made public.

The debate over the use of replacement officials has raged since the start of the season, and boiled over



**Green Bay Packers coach Mike McCarthy addresses reporters' questions about a controversial touchdown call on Monday Night Football during a press conference in Green Bay, Wis., on Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2012.**

Associated Press

after the final play of the Packers-Seahawks game. A last-second scrum in the end zone was ruled a game-winning touchdown by Seahawks receiver Golden Tate. But Packers players, their fans and much of the football-watching public saw an interception by Green Bay's M.D. Jennings.

"Would you let a Toyota dealership work on your brand new Rolls-Royce? That doesn't work right, does it," Dallas safety Gerald Sensabaugh said Wednesday. "Our brand is so big, it's so important to a lot of people. There's no way you can have guys that don't have experience at that level."

Aaron Rodgers, Green Bay's quarterback and the reigning league MVP, used his weekly radio show Tuesday as a platform to lash out at the NFL and question its priorities. However, New England quarterback Tom Brady said he would rather focus on the game

and not worry about officiating.

The NFLRA, whose members were locked out in June, wants improved salaries, retirement benefits and other logistical issues. The NFL is proposing a pension freeze and a higher 401(k) match; the union is balking because of the greater risk to the nest egg that comes with the loss of a defined benefit.

And as speculation swirled that a deal was close on Wednesday, the players' association urged caution. "Having done this before, everyone needs to wait until the ink is dry," NFL Players Association executive director DeMaurice Smith tweeted.

The replacement officials previously worked mostly in lower-division college ranks, such as Division III, and in minor professional organizations like the Arena League.

Despite several field fiascos, not everyone is necessarily pointing fingers at the

replacements.

"Someone made a good point this morning that maybe we shouldn't be blaming the refs, but blaming the league, the owners, I don't know who it is," Pittsburgh quarterback Ben Roethlisberger said. "Maybe it's not just the officials. We're putting them in tough situations and it can't be easy."

In Cincinnati, coach Mar-

vin Lewis urged the Bengals in a team meeting to not fixate on the replacement-ref issue.

"I told our guys to shut up," Lewis said. "It's none of your business. You have no influence on it. You don't need to worry about it. Just play football."

Even if a deal was at hand, it was still uncertain how it would affect the weekend's games. □

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With Spanish Subtitles

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Fri 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20 / 11:40  
Sat 2:20 / 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20 / 11:40  
Sun & Hol 2:20 / 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20

**PG-13**

**DREDD**

Karl Urban Lena Headey

3D Version with Spanish Subtitles

Mon - Thurs 4:00 / 6:15 / 8:30 / 9:35  
Fri 4:00 / 6:15 / 8:30 / 9:35 / 10:45 / 11:50  
Sat 1:45 / 4:00 / 6:15 / 8:30 / 9:35 / 10:45 / 11:50  
Sun & Hol 1:45 / 4:00 / 6:15 / 8:30 / 9:35

**R**

**RESIDENT EVIL: RETRIBUTION**

Milla Jovovich Sienna Guillory

3D Version with Spanish Subtitles

Mon - Thurs 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30  
Fri 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30 / 11:45  
Sat 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30 / 11:45  
Sun & Hol 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30

**R**

**THE POSSESSION**

Jeffrey Dean Morgan Natasha Calis

Mon - Thurs 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40  
Fri 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40 / 11:50  
Sat 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40 / 11:50  
Sun & Hol 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40

**PG-13**

**PREMIUM RUSH**

Joseph Gordon-Levitt Dania Ramirez

With Spanish Subtitles

Mon - Thurs 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20  
Fri 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20 / 11:30  
Sat 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20 / 11:30  
Sun & Hol 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20

**PG-13**

**STARTING NEXT WEEK OCTOBER 4 PITCH PERFECT**



## Personal Health:

# Pertussis, a stubborn and stealthy illness

JANE E. BRODY

© 2012 New York Times  
Chances are, you think you have never had whooping cough, the bacterial infection known medically as pertussis. You may well be wrong. Children get five doses of the DTaP vaccine against diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus before entering school. But "mild illness is almost always overlooked," Dr. James D. Cherry, an expert in whooping cough, told me. Neither the vaccine nor the actual illness confers lifelong immunity, and every three to five years there is an epidemic of this disease in the United States. One is occurring now, and it could turn out to be largest reported outbreak of pertussis in 50 years, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Cherry, a professor of pediatrics at the University of California, Los Angeles, explained that

in a person who has had the disease or been immunized for it, its symptoms – a runny or stuffy nose, little or no fever and a cough – typically resemble those of a common cold. Most people weather it without ever going to the

the result can be catastrophic. Babies who are not fully immunized may develop pneumonia, severe breathing problems and terrifying seizures; they may even die from pertussis. Currently, the vaccine is administered at

effects, including high fevers, seizures, uncontrollable crying and floppiness. Although the old vaccine was blamed for some cases of sudden infant death, this turned out to not be the case, Cherry said. In 2010, 27,550 cases of whooping cough were reported to the CDC, which estimates that many more infections actually occurred but were not recognized or not reported. By the end of August of this year, more than 25,000 cases were reported, including 13 deaths, most in children younger than 1.

**A LINGERING PROBLEM**  
Why is this preventable disease still such a problem? A very thorough new study by researchers at the Kaiser Permanente Vaccine Study Center in Oakland, Calif., documented for the first time how quickly immunity can wear off with the current vaccine. □



**Neither the vaccine against whooping cough, which can be deadly to infants, nor the actual illness confers lifelong immunity, and 90 percent of cases go unrecognized, experts say.**  
(Yvetta Fedorova/The New York Times)

doctor. Pertussis is highly contagious, spreading from person to person through coughs and sneezes. If someone with the infection comes in contact with an unprotected infant,

ages 2, 4 and 6 months, and again at 15 to 18 months and at 4 to 6 years. In 2005, DTaP replaced the old "whole cell" pertussis vaccine, called DTP, which often caused severe side

## Doctors urged to screen for alcohol problems

SABRINA TAVERNISE

© 2012 New York Times

Primary care providers should screen their adult patients to determine whether they are misusing alcohol, and provide counseling when risky behavior is detected, a panel of medical experts reaffirmed Monday. About a third of Americans misuse alcohol, though far fewer are addicted, according to the panel, the United States Preventive Services Task Force. The misuse results in an estimated 85,000 deaths a year, making illness related to alcohol abuse the third-leading cause of death in the U.S., after smoking and obesity. After reviewing recent research, the panel concluded that primary care doctors and nurses could help patients cut down on drinking by offering them a brief counseling session or a series of sessions. Doctors would determine whether counseling was needed by asking a simple set of questions about alcohol use during the patient's primary care visit.

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism considers more than 14 drinks a week excessive for men and more than seven drinks a week excessive for women. It says daily consumption should not be more than four drinks for men and three for women. The questions that doctors should ask, the task force said, include, "How often do you have a drink containing alcohol?" and "How often do you have five or more drinks on one occasion?" The task force did not recommend the same screening and counseling for adolescents because, it said, it was less clear whether the benefits would outweigh the potential harm, like anxiety or the stigma of being singled out. The strongest of the panel's recommendations are now hardwired into the country's health care system through the Affordable Care Act, which requires health insurance companies to cover many of the services or treatments free of charge to the patient. The recommendation

about alcohol screening falls into that category. The recommendations, issued in draft form Monday, will be published in a final version after a public comment period. They are not new; the panel is reaffirming its advice from 2004. While few dispute the value of offering alcohol counseling to those who need it, primary care doctors are not always able to take the time to follow through. A 2004 study published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine that used national data estimated that 45 percent of adults reported being asked about their alcohol use during a routine primary care visit. Among those with risky drinking patterns, about 60 percent reported being asked. Alcohol misuse contributes to a broad range of illnesses, the panel said, including hypertension, liver disease and certain types of cancer, like breast and esophageal. The studies were not designed to measure the effect that counseling had on mortality rates, the panel said. □

## In elderly, knee replacements are on the rise

LINDSEY TANNER

Associated Press

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Just like age-defying baby boomers, older folks have seen a surge in knee replacement surgeries, driven partly by a desire to stay active and by joint-damaging obesity. The findings are in a study of more than 3 million Medicare patients, aged 65 and older, who got artificial knees from 1991 through 2010. Almost 10 percent of the operations were redos — replacing worn-out artificial joints.

The number of initial knee-replacement surgeries each year on these older patients more than doubled during that time, rising to nearly 244,000 in 2010. Patients were in their mid-70s on average when they had surgery; that age edged up slightly during the study.

The aging population and rising numbers of Medicare enrollees contributed to the increase. But the per capita rate also increased, from about 3 surgeries per 10,000 enrollees in 1991 to 5 per 10,000 in 2010.

"There's a huge percentage of older adults who are living longer and want to be active," and knee replacement surgery is very effective, said lead author Dr. Peter Cram, an associate professor of internal medicine at the University of Iowa.

The study appears in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

The pace of growth slowed in more recent years — possibly because increasing numbers of younger adults have also been getting artificial knees, which typically last 15 to 20 years. The troubled economy may also have slowed demand for an operation that costs about \$15,000, the study authors said.

About 600,000 knee replacement surgeries are done each year nationwide on adults of all ages, costing a total of \$9 billion, the authors said. □





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## Companies agree to settle computer spying charges

RICHARD LARDNER  
 Associated Press  
 WASHINGTON (AP) — A software program developed to track the locations of rented computers secretly collected confidential and personal information about consumers, including medical records, bank statements and even web cam pictures of couples engaged in sex, the Federal Trade Commission said Tuesday in a settlement that bars eight companies from any further cyber spying.

The case involved seven rental companies and a firm called DesignerWare LLC of North East, Pennsylvania, which licensed its PC Rental Agent software to stores so they could shut off and recover computers that hadn't been returned in time or had been stolen. But the software could do much more than that, the commission said. When an add-on program known as Detective Mode was activated, the software could capture computer screen shots, furtively take photos using the computer's webcam, log key strokes and trick consumers into providing personal contact information, according to the FTC.

Detective Mode could gather data every two minutes that a computer is connected to the Internet until the program is directed to stop. The information would then be forwarded from DesignerWare's servers to the rental store that activated the program, according to the FTC. □

## Mr. Sexy Back tries to bring Myspace back

By BARBARA ORTUTAY  
 Associated Press  
 NEW YORK (AP) — "Who am I to say I want you back? When you were never mine to give away." Those are the opening lines of a song that accompanies a "New Myspace" promotional video. The once-mighty social network is trying to stage yet another comeback with the help of Justin Timberlake. The new site, for which people can request an invitation, looks a bit like an entertainment-focused version of Pinterest, with a dash of Twitter and Facebook thrown in. But Myspace has tried redesigns before, to no avail. Will it work this time? "If you break my heart a second time, I might never be the same," continues the song, "Heartbeat," by the group JJAMZ. From the sound of it, Myspace wants to win the hearts and minds of tech-savvy hipsters. Founded in 2003 and initially a fast-rising star, Myspace attracted mostly teenagers and twentysomethings, offering them a place to express themselves online. It peaked in 2008 with some 76 million U.S. visitors in October. The site lost its footing as the fun of customizing profile pages began to bore its users and the site's heavy use of banner advertisements slowed the speed at which pages loaded. At the same time, people were already migrating to Facebook, which counted users 35 and older among its fastest-growing demographic. The company's new promotional video offers a 2-minute and 18-second peek into a slick, image-heavy site. The site's much cleaner look is a stark contrast to the old Myspace, which users often derided as messy and cluttered. Posted this



In a May 7, 2012 file photo Justin Timberlake arrives at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute gala benefit, in New York. Myspace is trying to stage yet another comeback with the help of investor Justin Timberlake.

Associated Press

week, the video promises that Myspace will start "totally from scratch," as if trying to shed its former self. It doesn't say when the new site will launch, only that it's "not ready quite yet." The new Myspace will let users connect to the site with their Twitter or Facebook accounts, a sign that it won't be competing with those sites as a social networking service. Rather, Myspace will continue with its entertainment focus, as a place to play and discover music, add photos, videos and playlists and connect with artists. Timberlake, who's featured prominently in the video,

will likely play a big part of the MySpace revamp. The former 'N Sync pop star, with a group of other investors, bought MySpace last summer from News Corp. for \$35 million, mostly in stock. That was quite a difference from the \$580 million that News Corp. paid for the company in 2005, when it was still an Internet darling. MySpace, of course, isn't Timberlake's first foray into social networking. He played Napster co-founder Sean Parker, a party animal and early Facebook adviser, in Aaron Sorkin's "The Social Network" in 2010. In August this year, research

firm comScore put Myspace's monthly unique visitors at 28 million, making it the 43rd most visited Web property in the U.S. It's behind the likes of not just Google, Facebook and Twitter but startups such as Tumblr, along with the reviews site Yelp and WebMD.

"The new design certainly looks beautiful and it could certainly spur a lot of initial interest," said Clark Fredericksen, spokesman for research firm eMarketer, which used to put out ad revenue estimates for MySpace but no longer does. "But there are going to be significant challenges for any company looking to enter the digital music space. You have a lot of entrenched players who are really successful." Those players include Spotify, Pandora, Rdio, not to mention Apple Inc.'s iTunes.

There's also the mobile question. It's unclear from the video what plans the new MySpace has for mobile devices such as Android smartphones, iPhones and tablet computers. Fredericksen points out that cloud-based music — streamed over an Internet connection — is shifting toward the mobile platform primarily. We are all on the go with our music. MySpace is entering a crowded market here, too. Representatives for Specific Media, which owns Myspace, did not return messages for comment Wednesday. Timberlake's publicist also did not return an email for comment. With only the slick demo and the poppy, bittersweet lyrics of the JJAMZ song to offer details about the "New Myspace", these lines stand out: "Maybe I'm ashamed to want you back. Maybe I'm afraid, you'll never stay." □



# US stocks fall on weaker home sales, EU unrest

**DANIEL WAGNER**  
**AP Business Writer**

A mixed report about the housing market and unrest in Europe on Wednesday extended the longest losing streak for the Standard & Poor's 500 index since mid-July. Other risky assets, like European stocks and oil, fell more sharply. The median price of new homes sold in August rose by a record amount, while sales of new homes dipped slightly. Sales in August were up 27.7 percent from a year earlier, but remain at about half the pace economists consider healthy. Stronger data on the U.S. housing market have insulated stocks in recent weeks from a slackening global economy. Stocks' other main source of sup-

port has been the Federal Reserve's program to boost the economy by pumping money in. That idea

lost some luster Tuesday after a key Fed official said he doubted it will do much good.



**A worker adjusts a scaffold at the site of a new residential construction project in the East Boston neighborhood of Boston. Sales of new homes in the United States dipped slightly in August from July but the median price of homes sold during the month rose by a record amount. New-home sales edged down to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 373,000 in August, a dip of 0.3 percent from July's revised rate of 374,000, the Commerce Department said Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2012.**

(AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)

"There was some optimism coming into the market, and that's usually when you're most vulnerable to sell-offs when there are negative headlines" like the Fed official's comments, unrest in Europe and weaker data about the U.S. economy, said Todd Salamone, director of research at Schaeffer's Investment Research. Indexes had risen to levels they hadn't beat for months or years, Salamone said, creating "an almost perfect storm in terms of the vulnerability to short-term impacts." The dip in home sales hurt homebuilder stocks. Pulte-Group Inc. fell 76 cents, or 4.7 percent, to \$15.30; KB Home 51 cents, or 3.5 percent, to \$13.90 and Beazer Homes USA Inc. 14 cents,

or 3.9 percent, to \$3.50. European stocks had their worst day in months as unrest threatened to boil over in Greece, where deep budget cuts have eroded people's living standards, and Spain, where citizens are resisting a likely bailout from international lenders. Earlier, Asian stocks closed lower. The euro fell sharply against the dollar, and the price of oil closed below \$90 per barrel for the first time since early August. Rising demand for lower-risk investments fed strong bids for U.S. Treasury debt. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 1.62 percent from 1.67 percent late Tuesday. A bond's yield falls as its price increases. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 44.04 points, or 0.3 percent, to 13,413.51. The S&P 500 index fell 8.27, or 0.6 percent, to 1,433.32. The only category that rose was utilities, relatively safe stocks that tend to hold their value when the economy is weak. The Nasdaq composite average fell 24.03 points, or 0.8 percent, to 3,093.70. The declines came a day after the worst sell-off for the S&P 500 in three months. Charles Plosser, president of the Fed's Philadelphia branch, told an audience Tuesday that the Fed's effort to support the economy would likely fall short of its goals. □

## Gas prices unlikely to fall as fast as oil

**SANDY SHORE**  
**AP Business Writer**

U.S. gasoline prices should be at a record for early October when President Barack Obama debates Republican challenger Mitt Romney next week in Denver. The focus of the debate will be on the economy and domestic policy. High gas prices usually cut into consumer spending, which accounts for about 70 percent of U.S. economic activity. Although oil has dropped \$9 per barrel, or

9.1 percent, in less than two weeks, gas prices tend to lag changes in oil and experts don't expect a significant move lower until the middle of October. The U.S. average price for gas was \$3.805 per gallon (\$1 a liter), a record high for this time of year, and up 31 cents from the same date last year. Gas has remained stubbornly high although economic growth is tepid and demand for gasoline is lower than a year ago. Oil rose about 25 percent

from late June through late August. More recently, refinery issues have tightened the supply of gas on both coasts. And there are lingering effects from Hurricane Isaac, which disrupted refineries and imported oil deliveries along the Gulf Coast. It probably will be a few more weeks before supplies build back up in certain markets and lead to a noticeable decline in pump prices, said Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst at Oil Price Infor-

mation Service. Benchmark oil ended at \$89.98 a barrel on Wednesday, down \$1.39, or 1.5 percent. Oil last closed below \$90 per barrel on Aug. 2. Wednesday's drop came as protests in Greece and Spain offered visible reminders that Europe still is struggling to resolve its debt crisis. The protests are occurring ahead of spending cuts and tax hikes designed to help those countries control debt. □

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## Street Briefs

RadioShack  
CEO Gooch  
steps down

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — RadioShack CEO James Gooch has agreed to step down immediately and is leaving its board of directors, the struggling consumer electronics company said Wednesday. Chief Financial Officer Dorvin Lively will serve as its interim CEO while it looks for a permanent replacement, the company said. RadioShack Corp. said that it is in the process of hiring an executive search firm to help find a new CEO and that it may consider both internal and external candidates. Gooch became its CEO in May 2011 as part of the company's succession plan. RadioShack's stock has been hit hard. Since the beginning of the year, its shares are down 74 percent.

American  
Greetings:  
Go private?

CLEVELAND (AP) — American Greetings Corp. said Wednesday that a group led by its CEO and chief operating officer wants to buy the company and take it private in a deal that values it at about \$581 million. The Cleveland-based greeting card company's shares jumped 16 percent on the news. American Greetings said its board received the proposal from Chief Executive Zev Weiss and President and his brother, Chief Operating Officer Jeffrey Weiss, on Tuesday. The group, which also includes other investors and members of the executives' families, wants to acquire all of the company's common stock that it doesn't currently own for \$17.18 per share.

## Fewer US CEOs planning to expand, hire

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A survey of U.S. chief executives shows a sharp drop in the number of large companies that plan to add jobs or hire more workers. The Business Roundtable said Wednesday that only 29 percent of its member CEOs plan to increase hiring over the next six months. That's down from 36 percent in June, when the group last released its quarterly survey. It's also much lower than the 52 percent of CEOs in early 2011 who said they planned to boost hiring, the highest percentage since the survey began in 2002. Jim McNerney, chairman of the Roundtable and CEO of The Boeing Co., said CEOs are worried about the impact of budget cuts and tax increases that are set to take effect at the start of next year. The pending U.S. budget changes are known as the "fiscal cliff." Chief executives are also concerned about economic slowdowns in Europe

and China.

The cliff "certainly throws cold water on long-term business planning," he said in a conference call with reporters.

Only 30 percent of CEOs expect to increase their investment in capital goods such as machinery, computers or other equipment. Companies usually buy such goods when they are expanding. That's down sharply from 43 percent three months ago.

Large-company CEOs are more pessimistic about their future sales and the overall U.S. economy, the survey found. While 58 percent expect their sales to increase over the next six months, that's down from 75 percent in the June report. And the CEOs forecast the economy will expand just 1.9 percent this year, below their 2.1 percent forecast three months earlier.

McNerney said that when companies expect growth below 2 percent, "you're not adding jobs." Instead, they will simply

push their work forces to be more productive, he said.

The Roundtable's overall CEO Outlook index fell to 66, the lowest since the third quarter of 2009, when the economy was just emerging from recession. Any reading above 50 suggests the economy is expanding.

Still, the negative impact of the fiscal cliff could be offset after the presidential election if Congress postponed the cuts and tax increases and agreed on a longer-term framework for reducing the deficit, McNerney said.

The downbeat view among chief executives is in contrast with a report Tuesday showing that consumers are more optimistic.

The Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index rose in September to its highest level in seven months. Rising home values and stock prices have boosted Americans' confidence that the economy will improve in the coming months. □

## Chicago Fed defends central bank moves

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Federal Reserve official who has advocated more aggressive moves on the part of the central bank to combat high unemployment says the U.S. cannot afford timid efforts to support the economy. Charles Evans, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, said Wednesday that he wholeheartedly supported the moves the Fed took earlier this month to buy \$40 billion in mortgage-backed securities every month in an effort to drive interest rates lower and stimulate economic growth.

His comments in a speech to a business group in Hammond, Indiana, were the latest in what has become a verbal battle among Fed officials over the course of interest rate policy.

On Tuesday, Charles Plosser, president of the Fed's Philadelphia branch, expressed

doubts that the Fed's latest stimulus efforts would work.

Plosser's comments were viewed negatively by financial markets

that the central bank has done all it can to help the economy and going any further in terms of pumping more money into the finan-



Bankers and other officials, including Charles Evans, center, president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, visit at Grand Teton National Park near Jackson Hole, Wyo. (AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

with the Dow Jones industrial average losing 101.37 points on Tuesday. Plosser argued that the new bond buying effort was unlikely to boost economic growth and risked harming the Fed's credibility as an inflation fighter.

Plosser is among a minority group of Fed officials who have argued

the financial system through bond purchases runs the risk of triggering higher inflation in the future.

In his remarks, Evans took issue with those who have warned that the Fed's efforts could have unintended adverse consequences. "Being timid and unduly passive can also lead

to unintended consequences," Evans said. "If we continue to take only modest, cautious, safe policy actions, we risk suffering a lost decade similar to that which Japan experienced in the 1990s."

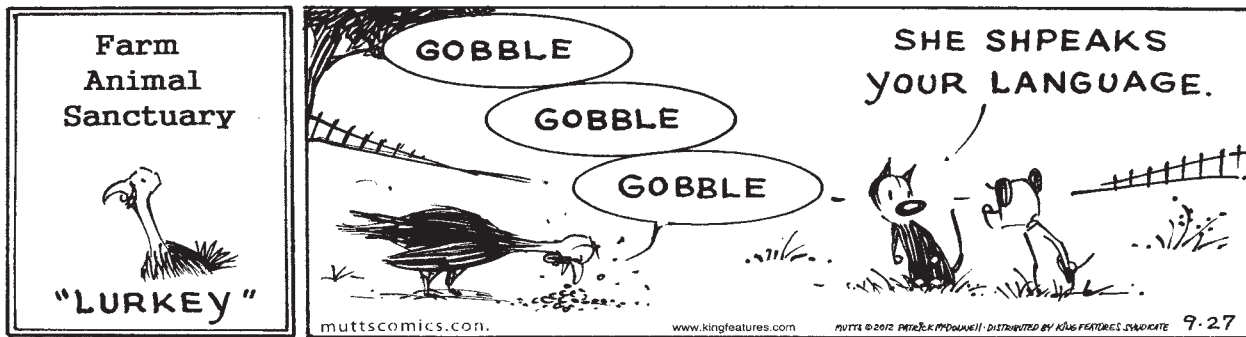
Evans has argued for the past two years that the central bank needs to adopt an explicit target for unemployment and pledge to provide economic stimulus until unemployment dips below that threshold. Evans has suggested providing support until unemployment falls below 7 percent as long as the outlook for inflation remains below 3 percent.

The Fed in its Sept. 13 decision, taken on an 11-1 vote, decided to launch a third round of bond buying, a process known as quantitative easing.

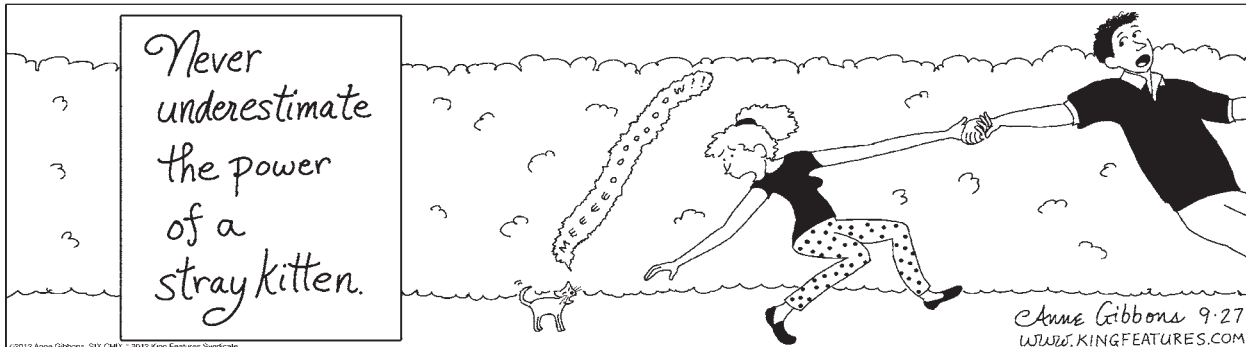
It said it would keep purchasing bonds and would consider providing additional support until the labor market showed substantial improvement. □



## Mutts



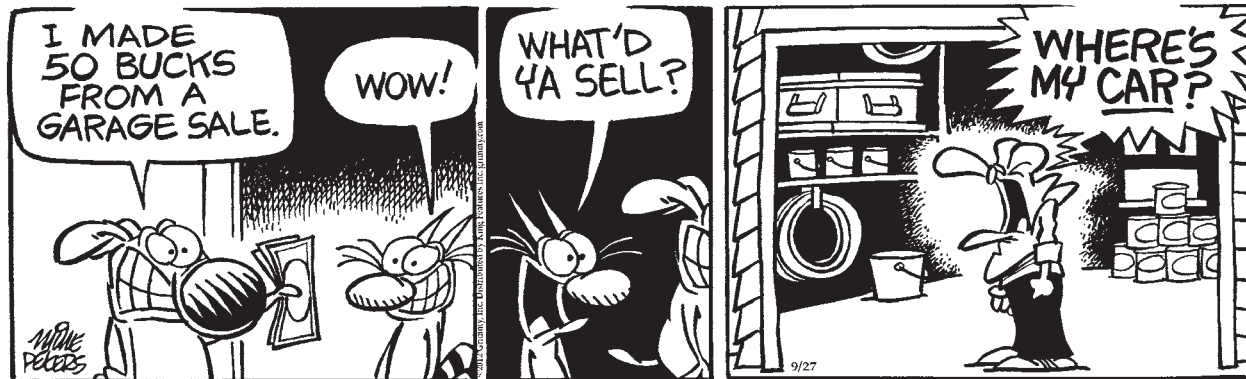
## 6 Chix



## Blondie



## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | 6 |   |   | 3 |   | 4 |   |
|   |   |   |   | 2 |   |   |   | 1 |
| 9 |   |   |   |   | 5 |   |   |   |
|   | 1 |   | 8 | 3 | 6 |   | 7 |   |
| 4 |   | 7 |   | 9 |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   | 7 |   |   |   |   | 2 |
| 6 |   |   |   | 4 |   |   |   |   |
|   | 5 |   | 3 |   |   | 8 |   |   |

Difficulty Level ★★★

9/27

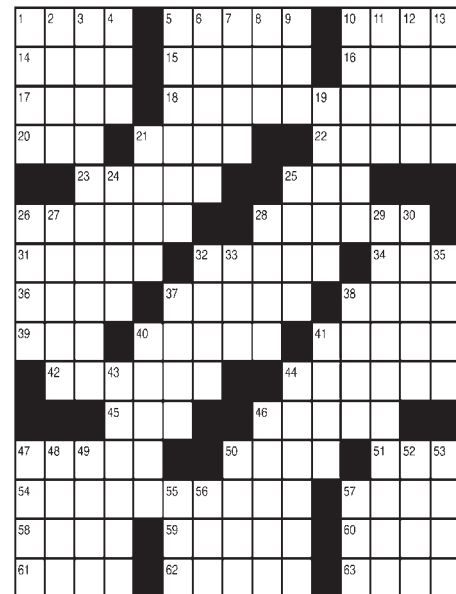
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 6 |
| 5 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 1 |
| 4 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 |
| 6 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 4 |
| 9 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 3 |
| 3 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 9 |
| 8 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 5 |
| 2 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| 7 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 2 |

### ACROSS

- Ocean liner or destroyer
- \_\_ paint; can with a nozzle
- Con game
- Zero
- Tranquility
- Stockings
- Leave out
- Churchill Downs & Ascot
- Wager
- Jackass
- Embarrass
- Perfect
- Triangular sail
- Remained
- Sprawling tree
- Café customer
- Tastelessly ornate
- Pigeon's cry
- In the center of
- Boorish
- \_\_-fry; cook in a wok
- Zodiac lion
- Saturates
- Pretense
- "Make it \_\_"; impatient one's demand
- Irritates
- Foot digit
- High-IQ group
- Boise's state
- Fence opening
- Little child
- Slow down
- Climbing plant
- Make a salary
- Twelve-inch measuring stick
- Peruvian Indian
- Vicinity
- Raises, as kids
- Gets older



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/27/12

### Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | L | L | I | C | I | N | G | T | R | A | P |
| S | A | I | L | N | A | D | I | R | H | E | R |
| T | R | E | E | V | I | L | L | A | R | A | M |
| D | U | N | G | A | R | E | E | S | E | L | S |
|   | T | O | D | O |   | P | E | A |   |   |   |
| U | P | S | I | D | E | C | H | I | L | D | I |
| N | A | I | L | S |   | T | H | A | N | K |   |
| I | N | N | S |   | T | H | I | N | G | J | O |
| T | I | C |   | W | H | A | C | K | L | I | N |
| S | C | E | N | A | R | I | O |   | P | O | L |
|   | O | N | E |   | S | A | U | L |   |   |   |
| C | R | A | B |   | A | S | S | E | R | T | I |
| O | H | I | O |   | T | A | I | N | T | O | D |
| R | E | D | D |   | E | R | A | S | E |   | N |
| E | A | S |   |   | N | A | M | E | D |   | E |

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### DOWN

- Snooty person
- Residence
- Club joiner's ceremony
- Household animal
- Quilt
- Necklace bead

- Precious
- Farmhand unit
- Celebration
- In the past
- Soothing drinks
- Go wrong
- Regret having done
- By way of



# Clothing-optional days add to English Garden's appeal

SARAH LYALL  
 © 2012 New York Times  
 MALMESBURY, England – Sunday was the last “clothing-optional” day of the season at Abbey House Gardens in this ancient Wiltshire village, and a cold and torrential rain had confounded many visitors’ clothes-free plans. Not Roger Monroe, a retired court stenographer, who gamely took off his pants, sipped his cup of tea and explained that being here allowed him to indulge in two pastimes beloved of more English people than one might imagine: being in a garden, and not wearing anything at the time. He cannot do this at home on account of his uptight neighbors, he explained, and so he weeds and trims while covering potentially alarming body parts with a tie-dyed sarong he bought at a garage sale. “I am as near to naked as I can be while I cut the grass,” Monroe said. At Abbey House, though, he can admire the flowers while dispensing with the sarong. Abbey House Gardens, which draws tens of thousands of visitors a year to this village not far from the Welsh border, is known for its 2,000 varieties of roses, its spectacular mix of landscaped and wild paths, and the six days during the summer when people can wear clothes if they want to, or not. Its proprietors are Ian and Barbara Pollard, who often do not want to wear clothes and who are known as the Naked Gardeners. So who was the man wielding a garden implement and concealed under a dirt-encrusted shirt and

pants? “I’m a clothed garden-er,” said the man hastily, identifying himself as Luke Hollingsworth, Abbey House employee. He said he did not mind other people’s nudity, as long as he did not have to be nude himself. The real Naked Gardener, Pollard, said that his naked revela-



From left: David Shelly, Ron Law and Barry Graanop walk in the Abbey House Gardens on the last clothes-optional day of the season in Malmesbury, England, Sept. 23, 2012. The gardens is known for the six days during the summer when people can wear clothes if they want to, or not. (Lynsey Addario/The New York Times)

tion had occurred 44 years earlier, when he was 23, broke and doing yard work. “I was down to my last pair of shorts, and it was literally a choice between buying clothes or putting food on the table for my family,” said Pollard, perched gingerly on the edge of a kitchen chair, dressed in a pair of Wellington boots, a shirt opened over a mesh undershirt, and nothing else. “I thought, ‘If I’m going to wreck my clothes anyway, why not just take them off and car-

ry on?’” It was a popular decision. About half an hour later, Pollard related, the voice of a neighbor – an old lady who lived with her sister – drifted over the wall. “Would you like a cup of tea?” the lady asked. And then she said: “I don’t think my sister has seen a naked man since her fiance

tors at a time, Pollard said, of whom about 70 percent are regular nudists, 10 percent are non-nudists trying it out to see what it is like and 20 percent are “textiles,” meaning that they have clothes on. The usefulness of such a haven became clear last year, when a 62-year-old man in Gloucestershire named Donald Sprigg was arrested and charged with upsetting his neighbors and “outraging public decency” by gardening in the nude. The charges were dropped, but the case sent a frisson of fear among nude gardeners. Another visitor, Barry Greenop, a building controls manager, said he had first visited Abbey House with his gardening club and then returned, curious, for the next clothing-optional day. Strolling unencumbered through nature so revolutionized his outlook, he said, that he took up naked bicycling. Nudists are apparently converted one skeptic at a time.

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Recording artist Lil Wayne carries a skateboard at a new park he helped finance along with Glu Agency and Mountain Dew, in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans, Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2012.

Associated Press

## Lil Wayne opens skate park in New Orleans

STACEY PLAISANCE

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Lil Wayne showed off his beginner skateboarding skills alongside a group of professional skateboarders Wednesday at the opening of the artist's new Trukstop park in his hometown.

The Grammy-winning rapper demonstrated jumps — but didn't always land on his board — while Paul Rodriguez and Theotis Beasley from the Los Angeles area performed kick flips, board slides, hand plants and other higher-level tricks for the crowd at the park located in the Lower 9th Ward, one of the most devastated sections of the city after levees failed during Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Lil Wayne told The Associated Press he started skating about a year and a half ago when he saw someone else skating and thought it looked interesting.

"I thought it would be just a hobby, and I thought only people with skills can do it," he said. "When you finally get into it and you learn to like it, you'll quickly learn to love it. It's more than just four wheels and a piece of wood."

The rapper, who turns 30 on Thursday and recently launched a skateboarding-inspired clothing line called Trukfit, said he was excited to share his newfound passion with his hometown.

"I just want to help out my city, help out the people and the kids, give them something to do, something they haven't done before," he said. "It's always good to learn something new."

The new park occupies a building that survived the 2005 flooding. It was constructed using recycled materials, will be run using solar energy and includes all the features skaters love — stairs with rails for sliding, skating embankments and half pipes.

The rapper partnered with Mountain Dew and Glu Agency, a New York-based advertising firm, to launch the new park, which will be open to the public seven days a week. "There's such a pent-up demand for this place," said Jamal Henderson, the director of marketing for Mountain Dew. "Young people want to skate, and now they have a destination."

While much of the city has rebounded since Katrina hit, the Lower 9th Ward has been slower to recover. Homes in the neighborhood were pushed off their foundations, and many residents haven't returned. Blocks where homes once stood are empty and overgrown with weeds.

The park will provide a gathering place in that part of the city.

In 2011, Lil Wayne gashed his head while skateboarding at a St. Louis-area skateboard park. □

# George Strait hitting the road for the last time



Country music star George Strait speaks at a news conference on Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2012, in Nashville, Tenn. Strait announced that he will start his final tour early next year, playing 21 dates in 2013 and 20 more in 2014 on The Cowboy Rides Away tour.

Associated Press

CHRIS TALBOTT

AP Music Writer

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)

— George Strait is getting ready to park his tour bus.

The enduring country music superstar announced Wednesday during a news conference at the Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum that he will embark on his final tour early next year. Strait will play 20 dates in 2013, then 20 more in 2014 on The Cowboy Rides Away tour. He plans to continue recording music and making occasional live appearances after that, but his road warrior days will soon be over.

"I just don't want to go to the point where I show up and nobody else does, you know?" Strait said in an interview before making the announcement. "It's been great. I've been doing it for 30-some odd years and I've loved it. Sometimes I've not liked it as much. And here lately it's just the walking out onstage part, that's all great. I'm still loving that. It's just the hectic part about touring and traveling and bam bam bam bam. I just feel like it's time for me to try something else."

News of Strait's retirement will come as something of

a shock in country quarters. He's so entrenched in the genre he's become part of the bedrock, a landmark to be marveled at repeatedly over the decades.

The 60-year-old Country Music Hall of Fame member from Texas released his first single "Unwound" in 1981, before some of today's top stars were born. Since then he's had 59 No. 1 country singles and is the only artist to score a Top 10 hit in every year of his career. All his albums have gone platinum or gold, selling more than 68 million copies. Traditional country singer Joe Nichols acknowledged Strait's impact when he called the singer "the Rolling Stones of country music" in a 2010 interview. And in a lot of ways, that's been true. Until now. The Stones refuse to retire from the road, while Strait has decided to do it on his own terms. "I'm sure I'll miss it. I'm sure I will," Strait said. "How can you not after doing it for so long. It was a hard decision to make. It was tough. I've lost sleep. But I think about midway through this tour I'll realize that, yeah, I did make the right decision. It's just a part of it."

The first leg of the tour will kick off Jan. 18 in Lubbock, Texas, and end June 1 in San Antonio. Dates for 2014 will be announced later. Martina McBride will join Strait on tour in 2013.

Strait said he was nervous about whether fans will come out and see him, but that's rarely been a cause for concern over the years. His live show is one of country's top draws. He's sold more than 4.3 million headlining concert tickets since 1999, according to Pollstar, an average of more than 18,000 per performance.

He said one of his most memorable performances was his last-minute replacement of Eddie Rabbitt at the 1984 Houston Rodeo in the Astrodome: "He just happened to get a case of laryngitis, which was a stroke of luck for me." And he also fondly remembers opening for Willie Nelson in those early years: "I opened for Willie at a fair one time and we were right in the middle of our set and the crowd just starts going crazy and I'm thinking, 'They're really liking this stuff.' I look behind me and Willie's bus is pulling up." □



# Publicist: 'Moon River' singer Andy Williams dies

BOB THOMAS

JIM SALTER

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — With a string of gold albums and the signature "Moon River," Andy Williams was a voice of the 1960s in America, although not the '60s people usually hear about now.

"The old cliché says that if you can remember the 1960s, you weren't there," the singer once recalled. "Well, I was there all right, but my memory of them is blurred — not by any drugs I took but by the relentless pace of the schedule I set myself."

Williams' plaintive tenor, boyish features and easy demeanor helped him outlast many of the rock stars who had displaced him and such fellow crooners as Frank Sinatra and Perry Como. He remained on the charts into the 1970s and continued to perform in his 80s. In November 2011, when Williams announced that he had been diagnosed with bladder cancer, he vowed to return to performing the following year, his 75th in show business. Williams died Tuesday night at his home following a yearlong battle with the disease, his Los Angeles-based publicist, Paul Shefrin, said Wednesday. He was 84. Williams became a major star the same year as Elvis Presley, 1956, with the Sinatra-like swing "Canadian Sunset," and for a time he was pushed into such Presley imitations as "Lips of Wine" and the No. 1 smash "Butterfly." But he mostly stuck to what he called his "natural style."

In 1970, when even Sinatra had given up and (temporarily) retired, Williams was in the top 10 with the theme from "Love Story," the Oscar-winning tearjerker. He had 18 gold records and three platinum, was nominated for five Grammy awards and hosted the Grammy ceremonies for several years.

Movie songs became a specialty, from "Love Story" and "Days of Wine and



**This Feb. 6, 2009 file photo shows Andy Williams arriving at the MusiCares Person of the Year tribute in Los Angeles.**  
Associated Press

Roses" to "Moon River." The longing Johnny Mercer-Henry Mancini ballad was his most famous song, even though he never released it as a single because his record company feared such lines as "my huckleberry friend" were too confusing and old-fashioned for teens. The song was first performed by Audrey Hepburn in the beloved 1961 film "Breakfast at Tiffany's," but Mancini thought "Moon River" ideal for Williams, who recorded it in "pretty much one take."

Although "Moon River" was covered by countless artists, Williams made the song his personal brand. In fact, he insisted on it.

"When I hear anybody else sing it, it's all I can do to stop myself from shouting at the television screen, 'No! That's my song!'" Williams wrote in his 2009 memoir, titled, fittingly, "Moon River and Me."

"The Andy Williams Show," which lasted in various formats on television through the 1960s and into 1971, won three Emmys and featured Williams alternately performing his stable of hits and bantering casually with his guest stars.

Williams did book some rock and soul acts, including the Beach Boys, the Temptations and Smokey Robinson. On one show, in



**In a May 12, 1961 file photo, Andy Williams performs a song on a television show. Emmy-winning TV host and "Moon River" crooner Williams died Tuesday night, Sept. 25, 2012 at his home in Branson, Mo., following a year-long battle with bladder cancer. He was 84.**  
Associated Press

1970, Williams sang "Heaven Help Us All" with Ray Charles, Mama Cass and a then-little known Elton John, a vision to Williams in his rhinestone glasses and black cape. But Williams liked him and his breakthrough hit "Your Song" enough to record it himself. Williams' unflappable manner on television and in concert was mirrored off-stage.

"I guess I've never really been aggressive, although almost everybody else in show business fights and gouges and knees to get where they want to be," he once said.



**In this photo taken Friday, Sept. 7, 2012, McDonald's patrons watch the new McDonald's television channel at a McDonald's restaurant in Norwalk, Calif.**  
Associated Press

## McDonald's asks, TV with that? New channel on menu

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The question of the moment at 700 pioneering McDonald's restaurants: You want TV with those fries?

Not just any television, but the custom-made M Channel, formulated and tested with the same attention to detail that made Big Macs and Chicken McNuggets cultural icons. The channel's aim is to offer exclusive content to entertain customers. More ambitiously, it also intends to create promotional and sales opportunities for record companies and others who want to dive into McDonald's vast customer pool.

Lee Edmondson, who has spent more than eight years developing the concept for McDonald's and years beforehand pondering it, said the fast-food chain is thinking way outside the TV box.

"It is a vision that is more than television," more than the "passive relationship" that viewers have with gas station or supermarket TV feeds, said Edmondson, who comes from a venture-capital background.

The M channel is akin to a broadcast network with its own news, entertainment and sportscasts localized for cities and even neighborhoods, he said. But there's more: It will supersize the experience by directing viewers online for shopping or other opportunities.

Get details on a featured electronic toy or be among the first to download a music video discovered via M Channel. Want to get close to artists you heard on your coffee break? Enter to win backstage concert passes or maybe lunch with them (just a guess, but the location may not be optional). M Channel's goal is to target different audiences at different times of day and be so area-specific that a restaurant could show high school football game highlights to hometown fans, Edmondson said. News reports are taped by local station anchors for the channel. Among those who have enlisted as content providers are producer Mark Burnett ("Survivor," "The Voice"), ReelzChannel and broadcast stations. A range of advertisers, minus other restaurants and perhaps alcoholic beverages, will be welcome, Edmondson said.

For now, the programming is in its infancy. At a McDonald's in Costa Mesa, south of Los Angeles, a flat-screen TV tucked in a corner showed an hour-long loop that included weather; a trivia quiz that promoted "Jeopardy!"; features on windsurfing in Maui and auto racing, and a Hollywood movie report packaged by ReelzChannel.



# Mitt's Mortification



FRANK BRUNI

© 2012 New York Times

That bloodied appendage? The one riddled with holes? It belongs to Mitt Romney, and we now know that his onetime support for gun control was all that was keeping him from shooting himself in the foot.

Throughout this campaign, he has misfired so repeatedly and phantasmagorically that his wounds make those visited upon Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway at the end of "Bonnie and Clyde" look like paper cuts.

But that's been noted, and there's a bigger discussion beyond it. How did someone so politically maladroit – a cardboard cutout crossed with an Etch A Sketch – get this far?

We need to remind ourselves that the alternatives were Newt Gingrich, Rick Santorum, Herman Cain, Michele Bachmann. And we need to ask whether we now have an electoral process so vacuous, vicious and just plain silly that most people in their right minds wouldn't go anywhere near it.

It chews up candidates and their families, spits them out and cackles with hyperpartisan glee all the while. Yes, those candidates volunteer for it, but still. The process doesn't necessarily serve some wondrous purpose of culling the herd and toughening the survivors, as the people invested in it – including those of us in the news media – often like to argue. Maybe it just sours them, befouls the atmosphere in which they operate and encourages voters to tune out.

It encourages would-be candidates, watching from the edge of the battlefield, not to step onto it. Mitch Daniels took a pass. So did Jeb Bush. It's not certain that either of them, in the final analysis, would have been better than Romney. But it's beyond doubt that the strafing they and their families would have received, along with the compromises they would have been pressured to make, influenced their decisions. To what bliss can the person who chooses to run look forward? Relentless tedium, for starters. A candidate typically repeats the same 10-25 minutes of remarks at least three times a day in at least two time zones a week for at least 10 months on end, if you count the primaries. To embrace that, he or she has to be a narcissist, an automaton, an ideologue or an idealist of the very highest

order. And I don't think the idealists are exactly overrepresented these days.

A candidate must be craven about asking for money and do it round the clock, because at this point so much of it is required that for all Romney's sterling connections and platinum panhandling, he's still apparently coming up short. That may be the scariest story of the season.

Due to the differences between a primary and general-election campaign, a candidate must be willing to waffle, and if he or she gets too accustomed to that, it can lead to moments as mortifying as one on the most recent "60 Minutes."

Scott Pelley, pressing Romney on which tax loopholes he'd close: "The devil's in the details."

Romney, refusing to provide any: "The devil's in the details. The angel is in the policy."

The hell has no end. The 140-character limit of Twitter, the acceleration of the news cycle and the proliferation of proudly biased newscasts have intensified the patrol for gaffes, heightened the hunger for tiffs and tidbits, ratcheted up the invasiveness.

Over recent days I stumbled upon a headline about Romney's "enlarged prostate" and, separately, a tasteless examination of the contracts that one of his sons had with a gestational surrogate.

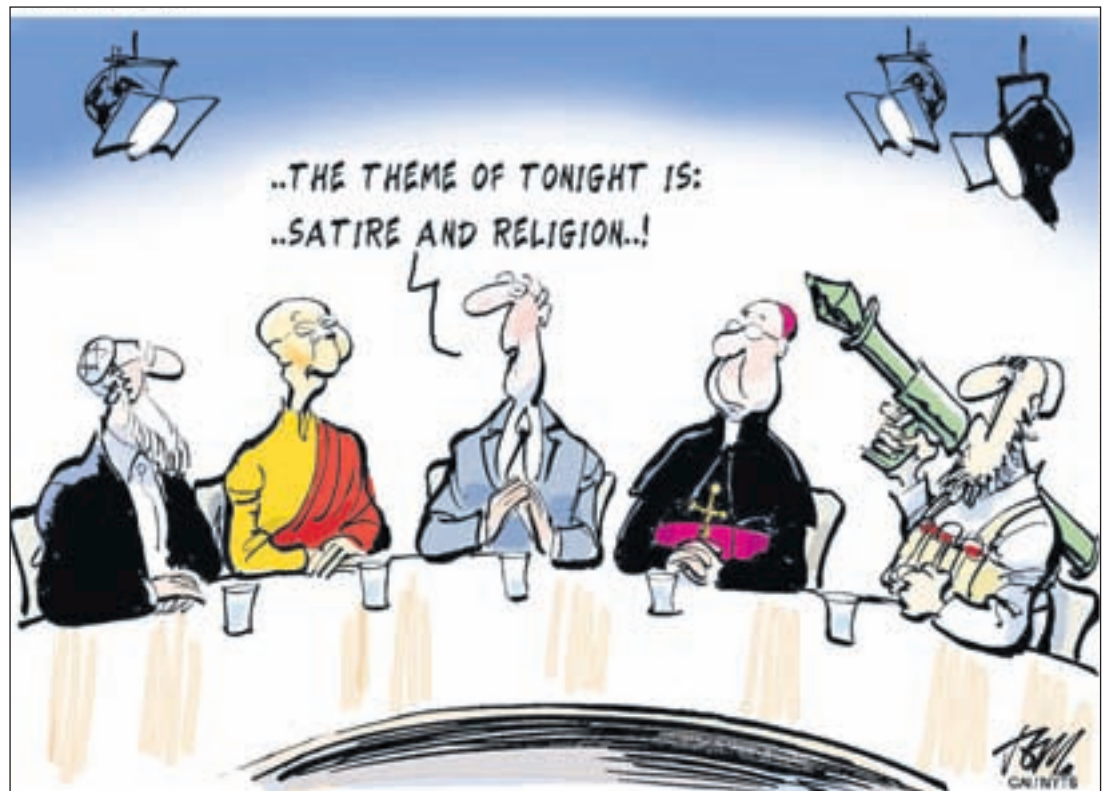
There was also chatter about the orange hue of either his tan or his makeup, though I admit to my own ignoble fascination with this. Halloween's on the horizon. Is Romney pandering for the pumpkin vote?

The zone of privacy around a candidate has vanished, thanks to prying smartphones – poised, yes, to capture important tells, but poised as well to document meaningless ones.

From strategists and pundits comes a daily vivisection: smirk less, laugh more, fewer neckties, tighter pants. Bit by inevitable bit, a candidate surrenders all spontaneity, along with some of his or her authentic self and a certain measure of joy.

President Barack Obama was also on "60 Minutes," and what I saw as he answered questions about his record wasn't the audacity of hope. It was the annoyance of being put through these paces and being second-guessed.

Romney's bleeding has plenty to do with his intrinsic shortcomings and his shortsightedness: How does a man who has harbored presidential ambitions almost since he was a zygote create a paper trail of offshore accounts and tax returns like his? But I wonder if we're not seeing the worst possible version of him, and if it isn't the ugly flower of the process itself. I wonder, too, what the politicians mulling 2016 make of it, and whether, God help us, we'll be looking at an even worse crop of candidates then. □



# Backlash To The Backlash



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

© 2012 New York Times

One of the iron laws of Middle East politics for the last half-century has been that extremists go all the way and moderates tend to just go away. That is what made the march in Benghazi, Libya, so unusual on Friday. This time, the moderates did not just go away. They got together and stormed the headquarters of the Islamist militia Ansar al-Sharia, whose members are suspected of carrying out the attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi that resulted in the death of four Americans, including Ambassador Chris Stevens. It is not clear whether this trend can spread or be sustained. But having decried the voices of intolerance that so often intimidate everyone in that region, I find it heartening to see Libyans carrying signs like "We want justice for Chris" and "No more Al Qaeda" – and demanding that armed militias disband. This coincides with some brutally honest articles in the Arab/Muslim press – in response to rioting triggered by the idiotic YouTube video insulting the Prophet Muhammad – that are not the usual "What is wrong with America?" but, rather, "What is wrong with us, and how do we fix it?" On Monday, the Middle East Media Research Institute, or MEMRI, which tracks the Arab/Muslim press, translated a searing critique written by Imad al-Din Hussein, a columnist for Al Shorouk, Cairo's best daily newspaper: "We curse the West day and night, and criticize its ((moral)) disintegration

and shamelessness, while relying on it for everything. ... We import, mostly from the West, cars, trains, planes ... refrigerators, and washing machines. ... We are a nation that contributes nothing to human civilization in the current era. ... We have become a burden on ((other)) nations. ... Had we truly implemented the essence of the directives of Islam and all ((other)) religions, we would have been at the forefront of the nations. The world will respect us when we return to being people who take part in human civilization, instead of ((being)) parasites who are spread out over the map of the advanced world, feeding off its production and later attacking it from morning until night. ... The West is not an oasis of idealism. It also contains exploitation in many areas. But at least it is not sunk in delusions, trivialities and external appearances, as we are. ... Therefore, supporting Islam and the prophet of the Muslims should be done through work, production, values, and culture, not by storming embassies and murdering diplomats."

Mohammad Taqi, a liberal Pakistani columnist, writing in the Lahore-based Daily Times on Sept. 20, argued that "there is absolutely no excuse for violence and indeed murder most foul, as committed in Benghazi. Fighting hate with hate is sure to beget more hate. The way out is drowning the odious voices with voices of sanity, not curbing free speech and calls for murder." Khaled al-Hroub, a professor at Cambridge University, writing in Jordan's Al Dustour newspaper on Sept. 17, translated by MEMRI, argued that the most "frightening aspect of what we see today in the streets of Arab and Islamic cities is the disaster of extremism that is flooding our societies and cultures, as well as our behavior. ... This ((represents)) a total atrophy of thought among wide sectors ((of society)), as a result of the culture of religious zealotry that was imposed on people for over 50 years, and

which brought forth what we witness" today. The Egyptian comedian, Bassem Youssef, wrote in Al Shorouk, translated by MEMRI, on Sept. 23: "We demand that the world respect our feelings, yet we do not respect the feelings of others. We scream blue murder when they outlaw the niqab in some European country or prevent ((Muslims)) from building minarets in another ((European)) country – even though these countries continue to allow freedom of religion, as manifest in the building of mosques and in the preaching ((activity)) that takes place in their courtyards. Yet, in our countries, we do not allow others to publicly preach their beliefs. Maybe we should examine ourselves before ((criticizing)) others." Whenever I was asked during the Iraq war, "How will you know when we've won?" I gave the same answer: When Salman Rushdie can give a lecture in Baghdad; when there is real freedom of speech in the heart of the Arab-Muslim world. There is no question that we need a respectful dialogue between Islam and the West, but, even more, we need a respectful dialogue between Muslims and Muslims. What matters is not what Arab/Muslim political parties and groupings tell us they stand for. What matters is what they tell themselves@, in their own languages, about what they stand for and what excesses ^they will not tolerate.

This internal debate had long been stifled by Arab autocrats whose regimes traditionally suppressed extremist Islamist parties, but never really permitted their ideas to be countered with free speech – with independent, modernist, progressive interpretations of Islam or by truly legitimate, secular political parties and institutions. Are we seeing the start of that now with the emergence of free spaces and legitimate parties in the Arab world? Again, too early to say, but this moderate backlash to the extremist backlash is worth hailing – and watching. □



# Southern California now a haven for vegans

JEFF GORDINIER

© 2012 New York Times

**LOS ANGELES** – It was a warm California evening in the city of West Hollywood, and Kathy Freston was sipping a martini.

"Just because you're a vegan doesn't mean you don't want to have fun," she said, sitting in a booth at a restaurant called Craig's. "I'm a decadent gal. I want to drink. I want to feel full at the end of a meal. I just don't want it to have any animals in it, for a variety of reasons."

Tall, slim and golden-tressed enough to be mistaken for a movie star, Freston is the author of books like "Quantum Wellness" and "The Lean," and a high-profile advocate for veganism. She strives to consume nothing that can be traced back to sentient creatures: no meat, no eggs, no dairy. But chilled vodka with extra olives? No problem. Nor did she have any qualms about eating from a menu that includes an 18-ounce bone-in rib-eye steak.

Craig's, hatched last year by Craig Susser, an alumnus of Dan Tana's, the age-defying hangout on Santa Monica Boulevard, is not a vegan restaurant. It represents a new culinary wave that can be felt all over Southern California, that reliable ripple-generator of so many national trends: the omnivore's restaurant that courts vegans and vegetarians (particularly the glamorous and powerful ones who are a crucial engine of the dining economy here) by preparing meatless dishes that surpass the droopy steamed-vegetable platters of yore. "You picture vegan restaurants with a lot of people with sandals and dreadlocks, drinking carrot juice," said Ellen DeGeneres, who stopped by with her spouse, the actress Portia de Rossi, to chat with Freston. Here at Craig's, the mood was more high heels and blond locks.

In fact, from power tables in Beverly Hills to pubs in the San Fernando Valley, the surging popularity of plant-based diets is drastically

changing the dining landscape. That shift is under way in various cities around the world, but it's happen-

Golden State freeways in the Atwater Village neighborhood, for vegan Super Bowl grub (a quinoa burg-

vel over the pumpkinseed chorizo. At Craig's, a vegan grilled-eggplant caponata shares menu space with

changed the power dynamic enough that celebrating a box-office triumph over bountiful platters of charred flesh is no longer necessarily appetizing to the stars who helped bring in the money.

"That old meat bravado is dead," Freston said.

It wasn't always thus – not even in the city where Alvy Singer, the protagonist in Woody Allen's "Annie Hall," winced as he ordered alfalfa sprouts and a plate of mashed yeast.

When Freston began turning vegan about a decade ago, she said, "Nobody was interested in that."

"I remember Werner Herzog yelled at me at a dinner party when I first started going that way. He totally made fun of me. In the beginning I didn't know anyone who was eating this way. It was totally uncool." Finding a sprouts-on-seven-grain-bread sandwich has never been a problem in Los Angeles, but even a few years ago, the vegan chef and cookbook author Tal Ronnen couldn't imagine that his specialty would go as mainstream as it has of late.

"If you had told me that I could go to a cool brewery and half of the things on the menu would be vegan, I would never have believed it," Ronnen, the author of "The Conscious Cook," said over lunch at the brewery in August. "There's something very progressive about what's happening here. You should see it on a weekend, man."

It's so packed. You can't get a table." The same goes for explicitly vegan or vegetarian restaurants like Cafe Gratitude, Elf Cafe, Real Food Daily and SunCafe, which is chronically full of luminous-skinned sylphs who seem to have floated in from a Fashion Week catwalk.

"The popularity thing took a turn mostly when a lot of celebrities started showing up," said Cary Mosier, who runs the Cafe Gratitude outposts in Southern California with his brother, Ryland Engelhart. □



**Kathy Freston, a high-profile vegan advocate, eats one of the vegan dishes offered at Craig's in Los Angeles (above); pumpkinseed-chorizo wrap, prepared by Linda Zardikian, the chef at Cru restaurant, in Los Angeles (right). With celebrities requesting vegan and vegetarian dishes, plant-based diets join the mainstream, changing the dining landscape in California.**

(Jose Emilio Flores/The New York Times)



ing in an explosive way in and around Los Angeles: at the elite gastronomy magnets, at casual gathering spots and everywhere in between.

Actors and talent agents hammer out script deals over the Kale Colossus entree at SunCafe in Studio City, a neighborhood of Los Angeles. Vegan celebrities have become such a fixture at Cafe Gratitude that paparazzi occasionally camp out on the sidewalk. Elegant spots like n/ naka and Hatfield's have extensive, ever-changing tasting menus for vegetarians.

But the after-work crowd can also head out to Golden Road Brewing, a craft brewery that rises from a sun-baked industrial patch just off the Ventura and

er, a hero with deep-fried avocado slices, meat-free chili) on a menu that makes room for a hillock of pulled pork.

"I'm not the food police, but I like opening the vegan door for people," said Tony Yanow, the entrepreneur behind the brewery, as well as Mohawk Bend and Tony's Darts Away, which serve dishes like a "vegan tailgate dog" and Buffalo-style cauliflower florets. "People will order food like that because it tastes good."

Vegans and carnivores used to glare at one another in militant opposition, but Southern California is revealing in a sort of can't-we-all-get-along cross-pollination that you see at Cru in the Silver Lake neighborhood, where meat lovers mar-

a dish called Jerry Weintraub's Spaghetti Clam Show, both of which might be viewed as gentle ways to woo the A-listers.

Not long ago, DeGeneres asked Susser if he would try a vegan spin on chicken parmigiana. The dish appeared on the menu in September, with a patty of Gardein, a protein substitute, standing in for chicken.

"I'm willing to do anything," said Susser, something of an expert in celebrity relations. "I want them here, and I want them happy." Freston, who recently separated from the media executive Tom Freston after 14 years of marriage, is friendly with just about every famous vegan in Hollywood. Lately there are quite a few, and they've